Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-080
Tuesday
26 April 1988

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FBIS-LAT-88-080 *26 April 1988*

CONTENTS

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Rodriguez in Brazil for ECLA Conference 1
Nicaraguan Social Security Minister Arrives 1
Raul Castro Speaks on Matanzas Defense Day 1
Senen Casas Attends Recruitment Meeting 1
Pioneers Hold 'Bastion-88' Defense Exercise 2
Pinar Takes Measures To Alleviate Labor Shortage 2
Briefs 2
Official on Increased Exports 2

Haiti

Manigat News Conference on National Affairs 2
Further on Remarks 3
PUCH Head on Domestic Situation, Party's Role *[Budapest NEPSZABADSAG 22 Apr]* 3

Jamaica

Contract Signed With PRC on Alumina Purchases 4

St Christopher and Nevis

Prime Minister Says Taiwan Trip Successful 5

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Arias, U.S. Gen Woerner Discuss Panama 6
Briefs 6
New Foreign Trade Minister 6

El Salvador

Msgr Rosa Chavez Discusses Human Rights Cases 6
'People's Patriotic Movement' States Goals 7
Ungo Comments on U.S. Policy 'Failure' *[Venceremos]* 7
Army Begins Operation in Chalatenango 9
FMLN Ambushes Military Convoy, Kills 22 9
Coprefa Reports 34 FMLN Casualties 17-24 Apr 9
FMLN Attacks Command Post; 31 Casualties *[Venceremos]* 9

Guatemala

Labor Party Criticizes Municipal Elections *[EL GRAFICO 22 Apr]* 10
Low Turnout Reported *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 10

Honduras

Armed Forces Communique Reports EPS Forays 10
Anticommunist Group Begins 'Propaganda Campaign' *[ACAN]* 11

Nicaragua

Ortega on Contra Meeting, 'Confusion' in Ranks 11
Contra Leader Killed in Choluteca, Honduras 11
Ramirez on Contra Talks, Sapoa Agreements *[Madrid DIARIO 16 18 Apr]* 12
PCN Urges Parties To Withdraw From Dialogue 13
Opposition Said 'Trapped' *[LA PRENSA 21 Apr]* 13
Liberal Party Issues Statement on Reconciliation 14
TU Group Calls for 25 April Hunger Strike *[DPA]* 14
Wheelock Inaugurates Agroindustrial Project 15
Briefs 15
Countries Pledge Aid 15

Panama

Lt Col Herrera Requests Dismissal Information 15
Noriega Adviser on U.S 'Pressure,' FDP Role *[Havana]* 16
Colombians Reportedly Beaten by Soldiers *[EFE]* 17
Retirees Protest by Blocking Central Avenue *[AFP]* 18
Civic Crusade Responds to Cabinet Changes 18
Opposition Unity Discussed 18
Abadia Says U.S. Trying To Provoke Incident 19
New Foreign Minister Predicts Solution 'Soon' *[DPA]* 19
U.S. Embassy Accused of Planning 25 April Coup *[CRITICA 22 Apr]* 19
Church Officials on Mediation, U.S. Sanctions *[DPA]* 20
Arias Calderon on Political Pressure 20
Molirena Calls for Talks With Armed Forces 20
SCN Accused of Looking Out for CIA Interests *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 24 Apr]* 21
Moratorium on Credit Debate Planted *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 25 Apr]* 21
Jobs Lost in Business, Construction Sectors *[AFP]* 22
Colon Free Zone Threatened by Situation 22
Opposition Call To Picket Mexican Embassy 23
Delvalle Reportedly Using Female Disguise *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 24 Apr]* 23
Commentator Stresses L.A. Unity in Opposing U.S. 24
DPRK Friendship Body Voices Solidarity *[CRITICA 23 Apr]* 24
WPC Delegation Meets Foreign Minister Abadia 25
Visits Rio Hato Military Base 25

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Alfonsin To Announce Spending Reduction 26
Constitutional Amendment Bill Shelved *[CLARIN 25 Apr]* 26
Alfonsin Meets Nicaraguan Education Minister 26
Deputies Comment on Talks With UK Legislators 27
Senate Committee Chairman 27
Justicialist Deputy *[LA PRENSA 24 Apr]* 28
Air Force Retirements, Appointments Expected 28
Changes Confirmed 28
Officials, Peronists on U.S. Military Aid *[LA PRENSA 23 Apr]* 29

Brazil

Nobrega on Banker Talks, State Firms, Policies *[O GLOBO 25 Apr]* 29
Aeronautics Minister Says No Threat of Coup *[O GLOBO 24 Apr]* 31
Sarney Authorizes Helicopter Purchase *[EFE]* 31
Amazonas State Governor Leaves PMDB for PDC 31

Chile

Pinochet Comments on Plebiscite Opposition 31
National Party Head Sees Pinochet as Candidate 32
Committee Created To Support Junta Candidate 32
Aylwin: State Apparatus Promoting Yes Vote 33
Government To Continue Economic Policy *[EFE]* 33
Opposition Unhappy With Episcopal Communique 34
Socialist Leader Outlines Transition Plan *[EFE]* 34
Christian Democratic Party Legally Recognized 35
'Extremist' Linked to Arms Cache Case Detained 35
Carabinero Murder Guns Found; 1 Arrested 35

Colombia

Foreign Minister on Relations With Cuba *[EL TIEMPO 17 Apr]* 36
Defense Minister Denies Rights Abuse Charges *[AFP]* 37
Drug 'Kingpin' Lozano Arrested Near Florencia *[EFE]* 37
Army Raids Ranch Near Medellin, Arrests 4 37
Medellin Communist Party Leader Killed *[EFE]* 38
2 Deputies Abducted; Ex-UP Councilman Killed *[AFP]* 38
Police Uncover Creation of New Rebel Group *[EL SIGLO 14 Apr]* 38
Rebel Group Occupies Antioquia TV Station 38
2 Rebels Killed in FARC Attack on Mitu 39
Further on Attack 39
8 Rebels, 2 Soldiers Killed in Clash 39

Peru

Garcia, Barco Meet, Sign Joint Declaration *[EFE]* 40
Garcia on Talks 40
Cuba's Vice President Comments on Lima Visit 41
Further on Visit of Western Sahara Official *[Algiers APS]* 41
Reports on Results of Attacks by 'Subversives' 41
Socabaya Mayor Killed 41
Huanta Mayor Beheaded *[EFE]* 41
Shining Path Kills 21 *[EFE]* 42
Cooperative Destroyed *[EFE]* 42

Uruguay

Broad Front Leader's Comments Split Parties *[EFE]* 42

Venezuela

Troops Pursue Colombian Traffickers After Clash 43

Cuba

Rodgiguez in Brazil for ECLA Conference

FL2504202688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez arrived yesterday in Rio de Janeiro to attend the opening of the ECLA ministerial conference. The Cuban leader was received at the Rio international airport by ECLA Executive Secretary Gert Rosenthal and by representatives of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry and the Rio de Janeiro State Government. Carlos Rafael will travel to Brasilia on Thursday, where he will be received by President Jose Sarney and also take part in a foreign debt seminar sponsored by the World Foundation [as heard] and the University of Brasilia.

Nicaraguan Social Security Minister Arrives

FL2204165088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Reynaldo Tefel Velez, minister of the Nicaraguan Social Security Institute, has arrived in this capital at the invitation of the Cuban Government.

He was welcomed at the Jose Marti International Airport by Fidel Vascos, minister president of the State Committee for Statistics, and Mayra Lavigne, first vice minister of the State Committee for Labor and Social Security.

The Nicaraguan minister will remain in our country until 28 April. He will visit places of economic, social, and historical interest. Cuba and Nicaragua have cooperated in the field of social assistance since 1981.

Raul Castro Speaks on Matanzas Defense Day

FL2504174088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1148 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Army General Raul Castro Ruz, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the FAR, participated in Matanzas' Defense Day on Sunday. Along with FAR chiefs and officers, he took part in defense exercises carried out by nearly 280,000 Matanzas residents.

Raul visited defense zone No 5 in Matanzas Municipality, the national school for sergeants-instructors, where he observed instruction, and the grounds of the Alvaro Reynoso Polytechnical Institute, where a battalion of the Territorial Troops Militia was taking an antiaircraft defense class. Later, Civil Defense Forces in Palmar de Junco demonstrated the skills acquired by the firefighting and first aid brigades to deal with surprise attacks.

Raul spoke with a group of older militia members there. [Begin recording] [Castro] We older people have things to do at times like these, too. How are things in Matanzas?

[Group] Good, good.

[Castro] You're the ones who exercise daily, don't you?

[Group] Every day.

[Castro] I exercise at least an hour or an hour and a half. That's why I weigh 70 kg. [laughter] You can't be a fat grandfather. [end recording]

Afterward, thousands of Matanzas residents attended the closing ceremony at the Victoria de Giron Stadium. A group of labor centers and defense zones received the certificate declaring them ready for defense, second stage, a prelude to the province's ultimate goal: to win the overall certificate in the second half of the coming year.

Luis Alvarez de la Nuez, first party secretary in Matanzas, told those attending the ceremony about the results of the exercise and outlined the socioeconomic situation in the province. He stressed that the sugar plan would be completed today. He also presented to Raul a sack filled with some of the sugar produced in the province. Sugar production totaled more than 835,000 tons. Raul then addressed the crowd:

[Begin Castro recording] We are closely following all your progress, particularly your economic and defense progress. In the name of the Armed Forces, the National Defense Council, and our commander in chief, I would like to express our appreciation because we can say, even without having all the figures of the province, municipalities, and defense zones in hand, that a master's class on defense has been given today in this heroic province, whose experience will help us to begin applying this expertise the length and breadth of the country. Because of your prior training, the organization that was displayed everywhere today, as I have been informed by several chiefs and officers who had split up in groups to tour the province, is the culmination of the positive experiences achieved on Defense Day in the application of the methodology of instruction. That is why we also want to express our gratitude to you, dear Matanzas residents. In conclusion, two greetings to the militias: one from Fidel and one from me. [applause] For the girls, if their boyfriends and husbands are not the jealous type, two kisses: one from Fidel and one from me. Until we meet again. [applause, cheers] [end recording]

Senen Casas Attends Recruitment Meeting

FL2304132588 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Army General Senen Casas, alternate member of the PCC Politburo, has attended classes on recruitment and mobilization for specialists meeting in Santa Clara.

Casas was accompanied by Tomas Cardenas Garcia, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in the province.

Pioneers Hold 'Bastion-88' Defense Exercise

FL2504211588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] The objective of training Pioneers in defense tasks has been fulfilled through the organization's "Bastion Pioneril-38," held in honor of the 60th anniversary of the birth of Commander Che Guevara. It ended yesterday in Mariel Municipality, Havana Province, with a demonstration exercise. Among the highlights were search and destroy exercises following a naval landing in the area known as the mouth of Mariel Port. Another exercise involved helicopter transportation in the outskirts of town. The members of the sanitation corps and the groups in charge of public order and production were outstanding in the execution of their tasks.

"Bastion-88," which was held this month by the Jose Marti Pioneers Organization, showed that the youngest generation is ready to carry on with our people's revolutionary traditions.

Pinar Takes Measures To Alleviate Labor Shortage

FL2504163588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1330 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Meeting in plenary session, the Pinar del Rio Provincial PCC Committee has approved a number of measures to solve the manpower shortage in tobacco production and to gradually replace the more than 40,000 Havana students who mobilize each year to carry out this and other agricultural tasks in Pinar del Rio as part of the vacation time agricultural labor plan.

The measures, which will be submitted for the consideration of the party and government higher bodies, provide for a variety of organizational tasks designed to improve the utilization of the work day and to increase the productivity of state producers and the peasant cooperatives sector. They will also promote the mass involvement of women and other forces in the cultivation of solanaceae and other cross-crops in tobacco areas.

Briefs

Official on Increased Exports

Manuel Estefania Seoane, Cuban vice foreign trade minister, has reported in Havana that the export of nonsugar products during the 1st quarter of this year generated 25 million pesos more than during the same period in 1987. He also said that Cuba fulfilled its commitments abroad for sugar and its by-products. Estefania Seoane referred to the export of rum, wire, fuel, and nickel. Citrus products were also successful export items. [Summary] [*FL2104215388 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 21 Apr 88*]

Haiti

Manigat News Conference on National Affairs

FL2204214388 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Mr Leslie Francois Manigat yesterday morning gave the first of a series of news conferences that he promised to hold. He stressed what he termed the acknowledgement of change.

Manigat said that change cannot happen overnight and that his government is not yet 3 months old.

The president chose to discuss continuity, which means that each government should not come to power and destroy the preceding government's accomplishments. Manigat castigated certain opposition sectors which, he said, are doing a series of underhanded things aimed at overthrowing his government. The president once again said, however, that he is in power for 5 years and will serve out his 5-year term, not a day more, but not a day less.

According to Manigat, the opposition must remain within the framework established by law and engage in open dialogue without stabbing anyone in the back.

[Begin Manigat recording] That is why—and I insist upon this—progressives have not had a chance to carry out a continuous policy, a policy from which progress could become cumulative. Such a policy could have changed the face of this nation. Every time a government tries to be progressive, it is fought, and there are attempts to nip it in the bud, if possible. If this is not possible, in the case of a successful policy, its continuity is not ensured. That is why I insist on the fact that we will complete our 5-year term and pass power on to the next government after 5 years and not a day later, but not a day earlier, either.

This is the only way to ensure that there will be, in this country, an era of cumulative progress. Every time we interrupt policy, we cancel whatever progress has been made. [passage omitted]

We must enter an era of continuity, and it is precisely democracy that permits us to guarantee an era of continuity. [passage omitted] Democracy will ensure this continuity which is needed to ensure that progress becomes cumulative.

Thus, you can understand why not only the serious economic and social problems we are facing are important but also why politics is important in Haiti. And you will thus also understand why I do not hesitate to say—even though some may find the term rather strong—that it is antinational to want to trouble the normal unfolding of events. [end recording]

Manigat said he will not fall into the same trap that Duvalier fell into— that of repression—even if pushed to do so.

The president also said his government was studying all means at its disposal to put a stop to the acts of violence occurring in Haiti these days.

President Manigat was unable to clearly answer the question about the high cost of living, although this situation clearly exists. According to Manigat, it is just due to a series of individuals trying to make a last fast buck before the disorder is put in order.

The president said: No one will succeed in alienating me from the Army.

President Manigat again addressed a sector he seems to like to address: the press, a press which seems to be responsible for everything bad that happens in Haiti. He again asked the press to be responsible.

Regarding the punishing of the perpetrators of the 29 November massacre, Manigat said all he had was the report given to him—a dossier that gave no names. He said, therefore, that he was leaving the dossier open. Thus, as the investigating committee has said, the investigation is still open.

Manigat also spoke of the lack of courage of certain people unwilling to testify in connection with these events. He also mentioned investigations in several countries, which have still produced no results after a number of years.

Mr Manigat guaranteed that corruption within the public administration will be eliminated completely. He promised to draw up a balance sheet—which he says will be positive—at the end of his mandate in 1993.

Further on Remarks

FL2204223088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Almost 3 months after coming to power, Haitian President Leslie Francois Manigat held his first news conference in the Salle des Bustes of the National Palace. He has held two previous news conferences. One was held at his private residence, and the other was held shortly after he was elected at the former ONAPI [expansion unknown] headquarters [Manigat's temporary office, under the National Government Council, until he took office].

This latest news conference falls within the framework of the public dialogue the president intends to hold with national public opinion.

Yesterday's gathering, the theme of which was "An Acknowledgement of Change," represented for President Manigat an opportunity to examine the substance of certain matters which, if taken out of context, could be misinterpreted.

Indeed, nothing was neglected in the introduction to the news conference. Contraband, the high cost of living, the climate of insecurity that seems to be returning, and many other problems were touched upon. The president also discussed what he termed attempts at destabilization. This has led to slogans being scrawled on walls which may be an attempt to create conflict between certain institutions that desire to work together harmoniously. [passage omitted]

The president also discussed the behavior of certain civil servants and public administration officials who seem to be having trouble being honest. [passage omitted]

The problem of the Haitian laborers in the Dominican Republic was also discussed, as was agrarian reform. As we said, nothing was neglected, and the news conference was very lively.

After the president's remarks, there was a question and answer session. As you were able to note yesterday over the RTNH radio and television network, there were many questions and answers.

The president had to end the news conference after talking for 2 hours, to the dissatisfaction of many people who were not able to ask their questions. Nevertheless, Mr Manigat had to end the news conference after 2 hours. Those who saw it say it went well.

PUCH Head on Domestic Situation, Party's Role

AU251514 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 22 Apr 88 p 2

[Interview with Rene Theodore, general secretary of the United Party of Haitian Communists, PUCH, by Attila Seres: "What Is Happening in Haiti? Interview with Rene Theodore in Budapest"—date not given]

[Text] Rene Theodore arrived in Hungary on 20 April at the invitation of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Central Committee, and gave an interview to our correspondent.

[Seres] Following the attempts to hold an election in November 1987 that ended in bloody confrontations, the population of Haiti was called to vote again in January 1988 to elect the country's first civilian president in 3 decades. How did this event go?

[Theodore] Can we call what took place here in January an election, at all? The few political parties that agreed to participate in the elections under these conditions can be called a grouping at the most, because the traditional bourgeois and left-wing parties called for a boycott of the

elections, so only some 5 percent of the electorate actually exercised their right to vote. On the day of the election the cities became literally deserted; only Army tanks could be seen on the streets. In order to prove the irresponsibility of these elections, some foreign journalists also cast their votes and no one prevented them from doing so. Both Haitian and international public opinion regarded the entire election as a farce, and dozens of U.S. and Canadian warships stationed in the vicinity of Haiti guaranteed the "honesty" of these elections.

[Seres] Why did you boycott the elections?

[Theodore] Because when the people wanted to exercise their rights and showed up at the voting stations in November 1987, the Army looked on at the massacre committed by the former Tontons Macoutes without interfering. The political parties, including us, the Communists, demanded an investigation into the bloody events and the punishment of the perpetrators, but nothing of the sort has occurred so far.

[Seres] What political forces does Leslie Manigat represent; who "won" the elections and has been president ever since?

[Theodore] He represents only a small group and he became president only thanks to the Army.

[Seres] What were the relations between Manigat and the former dictator?

[Theodore] From the end of the 1950's, at the time of Papa Doc, he led the political department of the Foreign Ministry; subsequently, he had a conflict with Duvalier, spent a short time in prison, and then emigrated and lived in France from 1964 until the fall of Jean Claude Duvalier.

[Seres] What is the bourgeois opposition parties' opinion about Manigat?

[Theodore] The best example I can give to answer this question is that while, prior to the elections in November, there were nine candidates from various parties for the position of president, for the above-mentioned reasons all the candidates had withdrawn by the time of the elections in January. Leslie Manigat remained alone in a political vacuum, and nobody supported him except the Army. Another issue is the fact that the parliamentary deputies and the city mayors were "elected," or rather nominated, in the same way as the president, and thus, formally, it seems as if a system of democratic institutions is operating in the country, although there is no real citizens' representation in Haiti.

[Seres] You have mentioned that there was an extremely negative international reaction to these elections. It is well known that for some time the United States had stopped the supply of aid to Haiti because of violations of human rights. What are relations like between Washington and the new bourgeois government in Haiti?

[Theodore] Not long ago, the Democratic faction of the U.S. Congress submitted a proposal for an economic blockade of the Haiti regime as a protest against this government. It seems that, although the above-mentioned circumstances hardly disturb the Reagan administration, one is forced to take into consideration the proposal made by the Democrats in an election year, and thus the Haitian issue has become a U.S. domestic policy issue. The same situation prevails in France too: Paris would prefer Manigat to a leftist regime, which Paris considers synonomous with anarchy; however, fearing its own public opinion, Paris does not dare to openly support the new president. Indeed, only the Dominican and Venezuelan Governments rushed to recognize the new president.

[Seres] The PUCH has no doubt analyzed the new situation. What is your strategy for the coming period?

[Theodore] Only the creation of a large coalition government would be an acceptable solution for us in that it would benefit the economic reconstruction of our country. Haiti, which has been cutting itself off from the world in recent decades, should open up to the world, primarily to the countries in the Caribbean area and in Central America, but I also consider it important and possible to work on our relations with the socialist countries.

From an economic point of view, we consider agricultural development to be the most important task to alleviate the serious food problems facing the Haitian people. We must create a political force that is capable of implementing such a program, and only a wide popular front can constitute such a force.

[Seres] Under what conditions is the party working at present?

[Theodore] With the introduction of the new Haitian Constitution we also became legal. Our appeals and program proposals are also heard on the radio and television, and on a national level, too, the Communist Party today has considerable weight. By means of persistent work, we succeeded in breaking the anticommunist mood developed by the Duvalier dictatorship for decades. I can say that, in a short period of time, our Communist Party has become a respected force in Haitian political public opinion.

Jamaica

Contract Signed With PRC on Alumina Purchases

FL2604001888 Bridgetown CANA in English 2037 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 23, CANA—Jamaica has landed a contract to sell China 50,000 tonnes of alumina this year with the possibility of additional sales in the future if the island can meet supplies, the GLEANER newspaper reported on Saturday.

The Jamaican daily said an agreement was signed earlier this month between the Jamaica Government's Bauxite Alumina Trading Company (BATCO) and the China National Import-Export Corporationa (CNIEC). A Chinese delegation that finalised the purchase was in Kingston just over a fortnight ago, following a team that had come here last November for technical cooperation talks, industry officials confirmed on Saturday. The price China was paying Jamaica for the alumina was not disclosed.

The GLEANER quoted BATCO's managing director, Audley Roberts, as saying that the Chinese wanted to buy 100,000 tonnes of alumina this year, which Jamaica was unable to supply because it had already committed most of its production.

Jamaica has a long-term supply contract with the commodities trader March Rich and took all of the output from the 800,000 tonne Clarendon alumina refinery, which since March is equally owned between the government and the Aluminium Company of America (Alcoa). For two years, the plant which was 94 per cent owned by Alcoa, was run by the Jamaicans under a lease arrangement, giving Jamaica full control over its output. The government said that the new 50-50 partnership with Alcoa would not affect its contract with Rich.

The GLEANER said the Chinese were scouring markets for up to 350,000 tonnes of alumina, and were waiting for Jamaica's supply situation to improve to provide more contracts. The Chinese are hungry for alumina and aluminium, one Jamaican official told CANA on Saturday.

The capacity of the Clarendon plant is to be expanded to a million tonnes, and Jamaica is negotiating with the Aluminium Company of Canada (Alcan) to lower the bauxite production levy in exchange for starting up the idle 20 percent of its 11.1 million tonne alumina facilities here. Jamaica owns seven percent of the Alcan operation.

The government is also hoping for the re-opening of the Kaiser-controlled 11.1 million tonne Alumina Partners (Alpart) refinery.

The supply agreement apart, Jamaica and China have been discussing technical cooperation in the sector. Chinese scientists and technicians are to come to Jamaica for training at the Jamaica bauxite institutes pilot plants and laboratory resulting from last November's talks. A Jamaican team is also to go to Beijing at mid-year for discussions that could lead to Jamaica helping the Chinese determine their bauxite reserves, officials here said. The Chinese are also keen to draw on Jamaican expertise and information in negotiating with the transnational aluminium companies that want to set up there. Both sides have also been discussing technical cooperation for economic use of red mud, the effluent from refining bauxite to alumina.

St Christopher and Nevis

Prime Minister Says Taiwan Trip Successful

FL2304032488 Bridgetown CANA in English 1929 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, April 22, CANA—St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Kennedy Simmonds has described his just concluded state visit to Taiwan as successful.

On his return here Thursday at the head of a five-member delegation, Simmonds said the visit would not only cement the friendly relations but also promote future co-operation between the two countries.

Simmonds had called on President Li Teng-hui, and held discussions with Premier Yu Kuo-hua, the ministers of foreign and economic affairs, and other high ranking officials.

Simmonds said the discussions centered on the current world situation as well as on mutual concerns.

During the visit, agreement was reached on the continuation of a programme of economic co-operation between St Kitts and Nevis and Taiwan (the Republic of China). This relates to the provision of development funds by Taiwan for St Kitts and Nevis, and also guarantees the maintenance of the Taiwanese agricultural mission here for the demonstration of agricultural techniques and projects perfected in Taipei.

In addition, the agreement provides for the grant of agricultural equipment and machinery for government's agricultural diversification plan.

The agreement was sealed in the Taiwanese capital, in a joint communique signed by Prime Minister Simmonds and the host country's Premier Yu Kuo-hua.

Costa Rica

Arias, U.S. Gen Woerner Discuss Panama

PA2304175788 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] This afternoon General Frederick Woerner, commander of the U.S. Southern Command, based in Panama, met with President Oscar Arias. The U.S. officer arrived in the country to visit the Atlantic region, where approximately 480 U.S. Army members are building roads and bridges. President Arias confirmed that Woerner's visit had been planned more than a month ago. President Arias was accompanied by Presidency Minister Rodrigo Arias and Public Security Minister Hernan Garron.

Gen Woerner and President Arias analyzed the Panamanian situation. The U.S. officer said that his country is cooperating with the Panamanian people and that their president, Eric Arturo Delvalle, will redirect that country to democracy. Gen Woerner said that the economic, political, and diplomatic pressures seek to make General Manuel Antonio Noriega [words indistinct] leave the Panama Defense Forces command.

After meeting with President Arias, Gen Woerner said that the United States is not (?planning) a military intervention in Panama. Regarding his talks with the president, he said they discussed the current Panamanian situation and (?not) the solutions of the conflict in the neighboring country. It was a conversation in which I expressed my views and the president heard my opinions about the situation in Panama, Gen Woerner added.

President Arias described the meeting with the general as an exchange of opinions on the Panamanian situation. [Words indistinct] being responsible for the U.S. soldiers in the neighboring country. [Words indistinct] visit planned for weeks and its main objective was to observe the progress of the work by the military engineers in the Atlantic region.

Briefs

New Foreign Trade Minister

Jose Maria Figueres Olsen, son of former President Jose Figueres, has been named to the post of foreign trade minister as of 1 June. The designation was fully confirmed yesterday by LA REPUBLICA, which reported that Figueres Olsen has already accepted the position. [Summary] [*PA2304040788 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 18 Apr 88 p 4*]

El Salvador

Msgr Rosa Chavez Discusses Human Rights Cases

PA2504010988 San Salvador La Voz Panamericana in Spanish 1400 GMT 24 Apr 88

[Homily delivered by Msgr Gregorio Rosa Chavez, auxiliary bishop of San Salvador, at the San Salvador Metropolitan Cathedral—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] It is part of our mission to defend [words indistinct], and this was questioned following the charges I made during my 7 February homily. First, we heard from people who were shocked by [words indistinct]. Later, the climate got [words indistinct] questions asked by Third Penal Court Judge Juan Hector Larios Larios. His first letter to me was dated 19 February; a second letter was dated 15 March; and his third letter was received last night. In his letters the judge asks me, and I quote, to disclose the name of my source so the incident can be investigated and clarified, and justice be served. I immediately answered the letters, advising the judge that I did not respond earlier because I was on a trip abroad. Shortly after Holy Week, I traveled abroad to fulfill my duties as president of the CELAM [Latin American Bishops Conference] Social Communications Department. I visited Paraguay, Brazil, and Belize for 2 weeks. I will not hesitate to submit my sworn statement and [words indistinct], because [words indistinct] the main source of information that we use when we refer to human rights issues. I also wish to stress, and this is perhaps the most important part, that my sworn statement must not be interpreted as a surrender. We shall always use the cathedral's pulpit to denounce actions against the dignity of our Salvadoran brothers. There is no law that can stop us from fulfilling this duty much, especially if we live in a democratic regime.

Unfortunately, today we must report a case that is very similar to the one that created the problem. The first case we reported was the savage killing of three people in (Planes de Sendero). On this occasion, there are also three victims who were found in Comalapa canton, San Juan Alba. As everyone knows, these three men were arrested on 14 April in Soyapango jurisdiction. According to the information that we have received at the archbishopric, the men who carried out the arrest are reportedly members of the Armed Forces. The proof and written statements were presented at the San Juan Alba court and at the Legal Aid Office.

When the church denounces these actions, it is with the hope that those responsible will change their attitude. The first step toward this change is accepting responsibility for one's actions. I believe that failure to accept responsibility is the real problem within the political parties; it is the root of serious problems such as the ones we are observing within some political parties and the problems that have resulted following the elections. On the eve of the swearing in of new mayors and deputies,

the new officials must be fully aware of what is established in our Constitution: Man is the supreme [words indistinct] of the state. [passage omitted]

'People's Patriotic Movement' States Goals
PA2304020888 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1800 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Report by Carlos Mario Marquez]

[Excerpts] The People's Patriotic Movement [Movimiento Popular Patriotico], MPP, has issued a communique and released it to the media. The communique states: The People's Patriotic Movement, MPP, defender of the interests of the people and the nation, hereby announces to the Salvadoran people and the world its stance in regard to the country's economic, social, and political crisis, especially in regard to the recent elections of mayors and deputies.

The MPP communique continues by analyzing at length the problems that led to the national crisis, and adds that throughout El Salvador's history the poor people have been subject to exploitation and repression by the oligarchs and the Armed Forces, and that the dictatorial regimes have always been subject to the interests of foreign powers that have dominated Central America and El Salvador for the past 100 years. [passage omitted]

The communique continues by stating that the MPP's goals are:

1. Struggle for a sovereign and independent homeland, free of U.S. military and political intervention.

2. Support the just struggles and demands of the poor sectors of the population.

3. Struggle for the achievement of a political and patriotic resolution of the war.

4. Struggle for the installation of a democratic and popular government that will represent all the country's social, political, and economic sectors.

5. Contribute to the resolution of the country's legal crisis. [passage omitted]

In conclusion, the MPP calls on all Salvadoran people to join the movement.

Ungo Comments on U.S. Policy 'Failure'
PA2404133888 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 24 Apr 88

[Interview with FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo by unidentified reporter; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Dr Ungo, the U.S. Administration has always applied a policy of confrontation against the Central American peoples' just demands through coercion and force. The situation that prevails in the region confirms that with this policy the United States has only succeeded in adding fuel to the fire, as our people say. Can you tell us about the repercussions of the failure of this policy in the various U.S. press sectors and political parties, as well as the administration?

[Ungo] I recently toured the United States for several weeks. That tour included Washington. I have learned about the U.S. Administration's latest failure both in the region in general and in each of the countries in particular. I think it is too early to attempt a full assessment of this failure on a short-, medium-, or long-term basis. Nevertheless, I think that within the Republican and Democratic Parties, the U.S. Congress and people, and the Reagan administration itself, frictions, disagreements, and contradictions have been occurring that indicate the need to reassess this policy and make tactical changes. I think that on a long-term basis, this could lead to strategic changes in U.S. policy, particularly by year's end, when presidential elections will be held and a change of government will take place in the United States. Even if the election results prove favorable to the Republican administration, the situation will be different from the one existing 4 years ago, when a minority in the United States pointed out the failure of this administration. At the time, however, U.S. policy in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and the rest of Central America had not been regarded as a failure.

I think the administration is getting weaker and weaker and more isolated, not only abroad, but also at home. This is a gradual process, but it will speed up later on. The Reagan administration has been seen to achieve the opposite of what it has been preaching. It has preached democracy, peace, and reforms but has paved the way for confrontation, conflicts, authoritarianism, repression, blackmail, aggression, and the use of military forces in the region, even in areas where this situation was previously nonexistent. President Reagan will soon end his 8-year term, but all that he said he would end has continued to exist and has even become stronger. It was first said the cause of the evil, which was in Cuba, had to be corrected. But the Cuban Government has not only consolidated itself but developed a Latin Americanist policy and improved its relations with other Latin American nations.

So far, the Sandinist revolution has defeated every U.S. strategic aggressive move through dialogue, even with the instruments in the hands of the CIA itself, such as Calero and the contras. Calero and the contras wanted to seek their own solution rather than to leave it entirely in the hands of the U.S. Administration. This, however, is still premature because the contras are very independent mercenary forces. So far, however, these forces have contradicted the U.S. policy and made it fail.

In El Salvador, President Duarte and the Salvadoran Government get weaker and weaker and lose face more and more. There are serious doubts about counterinsurgency as an institution. The recent election results have demonstrated the U.S. Administration's failure. The U.S. Government intended to weaken and defeat what it described as the extremist leftist and rightist positions. But that is only the policy of the United States and the Christian Democrats. The FDR and FMLN have become stronger through a considerable abstention during the elections. This abstention looks promising. In addition, the rightists have defeated the Christian Democrats. This not only does not indicate a trend toward the right in the country, but it indicates that more and more sectors advocate a political solution which does not entail being part of a counterinsurgency strategy, as happened with the elections.

We have seen that the Reagan administration has been using military and tremendous economic, political, and diplomatic resources and greater intervention to achieve results that are more and more debatable, rejected, and criticized. This could indicate that new trends will occur within the U.S. Administration and people. [Words indistinct] solutions will be achieved consistent with the positions of our peoples, and greater spaces will be opened to make it possible for national solutions, more in agreement with our interests, to be accepted.

[Reporter] Dr Ungo, as we all know, this month we commemorated the 8th anniversary of the creation of the FDR and the signing of the strategic alliance pact with FMLN. How do you assess this experience?

[Ungo] We never thought this struggle for democracy and peace with justice and independence would be so protracted. However, precisely these hardships and complexities in this struggle have required more and more effort, intelligence, boldness, capacity, and flexibility. The Salvadoran people have set an example and have somehow stimulated us to keep leading this struggle. The alliance has accumulated experience and enriched itself. Most of all, this alliance has matured. We have understood more and more the strategic nature of this struggle and our need for the support of broad sectors of the Salvadoran people. Consequently, we have all learned and taught one another. This has been true both between our organizations and between them and the people. This is the groundwork for our organizations.

I think we are now seeing that political aspects are becoming very important and it is more necessary to develop, strengthen, and broaden them. This constitutes a challenge for our alliance. As for the maturity in our relations, we have accumulated experience and force. We have also become familiar with the nature of our members and the need to respect the identity and autonomy of our organizations. All this strengthens our organizations, the country, and the people at large. Of course, there are disagreements precisely because we are not an organic unit, but a plural unity. We have practiced internal democracy and respect for pluralism more and more. This makes it possible for us to accept our disagreements and try to gradually eliminate them. Anyway, we are trying to discover what unites us the most and attach less importance to what divides us at this time in history when we need to strengthen unity through diversity. The latter must serve the basic interests of our peoples.

[Reporter] Within this framework of unity, how do you see the outlook for future work and the people's victory?

[Ungo] The situation is contradictory. We can observe negative signs, particularly abroad, more specifically the actions by the U.S. Administration. However, there are also positive signs, even new factors we hope will become more and more marked in the region and the country, as well as in the United States, as we said before. We can see a favorable outlook for a political solution which takes into consideration the Salvadoran people's interests, especially the majority. We think what has been happening in Nicaragua is an example and will have a favorable impact on Washington and the Salvadoran Army High Command. Salvadoran Army officers must be wondering how long aid can last under the terms established by a decadent, failed administration. These officers must also be wondering whether it will be best to seek other terms, more in accordance with the objectives of a democratic, popular struggle.

Not only in Washington can we observe changes in the U.S. policy, which will not want to give unlimited aid for an indefinite time to achieve unsatisfactory results. The idea is more and more accepted that it is necessary to seek a national political solution. Otherwise, the economic, social, political, and military deterioration will determine that the decreasing, limited, and conditioned U.S. aid will make the possibility of defeat more and more likely. This possibility has drawn nearer, although it is not imminent. This will make it less difficult to seek a political solution, rather than intervention. In addition, I think we have been observing more and more objective agreements among the various national sectors, although we have serious ideological and political disagreements. We now understand more what is going on, what is the nature of true failure, that there is no national political or economic understanding with the current government and counterinsurgency organization. This will enable us to find greater coincidences and articulate them. Each can make his own contribution toward a national consensus.

Furthermore, the Salvadoran people themselves are opening greater political space so our organizations can have a greater political presence, as well as a democratic convergence formed by the three parties. All this makes us moderately optimistic, knowing there is still a stretch to cover, much work to do, and greater understanding to achieve. These are my ideas. This is how we see the immediate future.

Army Begins Operation in Chalatenango

PA2304015788 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Report by Carlos Armando Rivera]

[Text] Thousands of Salvadoran Army soldiers are participating in a vast counterinsurgency operation launched a week ago in the northern sector of Chalatenango Department. The Army has reported 40 clashes during 7 days of military activities. Two detachments and three elite battalions are patrolling the area. They are also participating in reconnaissance and other military operations. Colonel Humberto Gomez, in charge of the operation, has said that the military objectives are being fulfilled.

[Begin Gomez recording] To date there have been 40 clashes with the rebels. We have not inflicted any casualties on the rebels. We have suffered eight casualties; three soldiers were injured when mines exploded and five were wounded during clashes. No one has died during the operation. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Colonel Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, chief of operations of the Salvadoran Army general staff, said his units have dislodged the rebels from the area and that the people of Chalatenango will soon see happy days.

[Begin Vargas recording] This operation, known as "Heroes of Paraiso," represents the rebirth of Chalatenango. The operation was launched to prove to the residents that Chalatenango is not a territory under [rebel] control. Our troops are deployed throughout every inch of Chalatenango Department. [end recording]

The operations control center is in La Laguna, 81 km north of San Salvador. The town, where 6,000 people live, has been under control of the Salvadoran Army for the past year. Artillery has been set up in the area as a precautionary measure.

FMLN Ambushes Military Convoy, Kills 22

PA2504132588 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Report by Raul Beltran Bonilla]

[Text] Official reports indicate that Army units with artillery and air support started a counterinsurgency operation in the Santa Maria Oztuma area in northern La Paz last night. The Army is attempting to locate an FMLN group who ambushed a military convoy in El Amatillo, Santa Maria Oztuma, at approximately 1500 on Sunday afternoon. In the ambush 22 soldiers were killed and 19 were wounded. The soldiers belonged to the Army's Engineer Instruction Center, located in Zacatecoluca. At present, there is no information on the number of casaulties inflicted on the FMLN troops, but, according to our reports, they also suffered casualties in the ambush.

Coprefa Reports 34 FMLN Casualties 17-24 Apr

PA2504153688 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Coprefa reported that the Armed Forces inflicted a total of 34 casualties on the FMLN in clashes that occurred in different parts of the country during the week that ended yesterday. The Army's official report indicated that during the same period, the Army suffered 31 casualties, of which 11 were deaths. The press office also noted that military troops participating in these counterinsurgency operations confiscated a large amount of war materiel from the rebels.

FMLN Attacks Command Post; 31 Casualties

PA2404193288 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 24 Apr 88

[Text] Attention: FMLN attacked a strategic command post here in Morazan Department. Reports indicate that at 0445 on 23 April, FMLN forces carried out the operation dubbed: "Against Misery and Repression—Organization and Struggle!" The operation consisted of an attack against the enemy command post located at Altos del Aguacate hill, north of the village of Corinto, in Morazan Department, where Colonel Emilio Ponce, commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade, and Colonel [Juan Carlos] Carrillo Schlenker, commander of Military Detachment No 4, plus high-ranking Army officers were located. Several of them were seriously injured. We repeat: Several high-ranking Army officers were seriously injured, and there is a possibility that Col Ponce himself might have been injured in this guerrilla attack on the Armed Forces strategic command post, in northern Morazan.

In addition, during this attack we inflicted 31 dead and wounded on the Duarte Army. The surprise and strength of this operation bewildered Armed Forces command post strategists, who fled the area.

These are the preliminary reports we have received at Radio Venceremos on this powerful action by our fighters at daybreak on 23 April. We call upon all our people, our fighters, to remain alert to the guerrilla signal of Radio Venceremos, as we will be giving more details of this important attack during which, as we have already said, it is possible that Col Ponce might have been injured.

Guatemala

Labor Party Criticizes Municipal Elections

PA2304034688 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 22 Apr 88 p 7

[Communique issued by the Political Commission of the Guatemalan Labor Party in Guatemala City in "April 1988"]

[Text] Authorities will be elected in 272 municipalities on 24 April. About 1,252,000 citizens who were registered by 23 February will vote. These elections will take place in municipalities with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants.

These elections, like those for the National Constituent Assembly, president and vice president of the Republic, and the Congress, are part of the military strategy of the reactionary top leaders of the Army to broaden the social groundwork that supports the counterinsurgency. That was the objective in the 1984 and 1985 elections and will be the case this time as well. The reactionary leaders and officers of the counterinsurgency Army, the Christian Democratic Party's leaders, and the government of President Cerezo Arevalo will try to shore up their positions and reinforce their local presence if the voters permit it.

We reiterate: The elections cannot and will not truly express the will of the majority of workers, much less guarantee that this will can be carried out. In addition, and under present circumstances, it is not through elections like this that the masses can create political space for themselves. Consequently, these elections are intended to expand legal support for the counterinsurgency—that is to say, the continuation of the war against the people and the repression and exploitation of workers. That makes these and past elections questionable.

The people will not be represented by any of the forces or political parties participating in the elections. These forces and parties, which submit themselves to the genocidal policy of the Army and the oligarchs, keep silent about crimes against and exploitation of the workers.

If the elections are not an instrument for the people to practice democracy; if the candidates are former henchmen of the Army or landowners; if the elections-oriented political parties practice demagoguery or attempt to manipulate the people through these candidates; if both the candidates and the elections do not represent the genuine interests of poor, landless peasants, agricultural laborers, and other workers and population strata, we must question these elections and candidates and inform the people that they are yet another instrument of the reactionary counterinsurgency Army's high command. It is not through elections—under the country's present political situation—that we can enjoy true democracy, worthy peace, well-being, and economic independence.

We call the people to struggle to restore peace, a just and worthy peace, to start a true democratization process, to resume the talks initiated in Madrid between the URNG and President Cerezo's government in October, and to hold a great national dialogue to discuss the country's problems with the participation of all political and social forces and sectors, with no exceptions.

For Guatemala, the revolution, and socialism.

Guatemala City, April 1988

Political Commission of the Guatemalan Labor Party, Central Committee

Low Turnout Reported

PA2604024988 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0507 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text) Guatemala City, 24 Apr (REUTER)—Today Arturo Herbruger, president of the Guatemalan Supreme Electoral Tribunal [TSE], expressed regret over the low voter turnout. However, he was pleased that the elections for officials in 227 municipalities in the interior of the country had taken place in a climate of total tranquillity.

In a news conference held this afternoon shortly after the more than 2,000 polling tables closed, Herbruger said that the initial expectations were not met. The tallies indicated that as of noon, less than 40 percent of the 1,250,000 eligible voters had actually voted.

Herbruger added that the Supreme Electoral will be able to give the results of the elections in the next 48 hours.

Honduras

Armed Forces Communique Reports EPS Forays

PA2504164288 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1120 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Communique issued by the Honduran Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate in Tegucigalpa on 23 April 1988; read by unidentified speaker—broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...to the local and international public:

1. On 13 April, between 0200 and 0300, in a wicked and craven action EPS troops attacked our national territory at the village of (Desvio), Gracias a Dios Department. The attack resulted in destruction and the loss of valuable lives.

2. The Sandinist attack lasted approximately 45 minutes. It was repelled by a Honduran Army detachment that went to the rescue of the civilian population. During the fighting Honduran soldier Samuel Toribio Miller and

fellow citizen Eduardo Martinez were killed. [Words indistinct] was captured and savagely tortured. A total of 28 people—including civilians and soldiers—were reported wounded.

3. The invading troops not only destroyed the town but, in an act of vandalism, ransacked the area consumer cooperative and took cash and foodstuffs totalling over 15,000 lempiras.

4. After this incident, troops of the 5th Infantry Battalion inspected the area and arrested a substantial number of persons of Nicaraguan origin who had been suspiciously roaming the area.

5. The command of the 5th Infantry Battalion invited the UNCHR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] to visit the area, where its personnel viewed the dead and wounded as well as the damage left by the Sandinist troops during their reprehensible criminal action.

6. The Armed Forces have asked the UNCHR to instruct its branch office in (Boqueron) to increase its control over the camps of Nicaraguan refugees and to avoid meddling in matters that fall within the exclusive realm of national security and faithful compliance with our laws on defense.

7. This new Sandinist incursion—which has resulted in sorrow and mourning in Honduran families—once more brings to light the Nicaraguan Government's intention not to abide by the spirit and letter of the peace agreements signed by the Central American presidents in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Tegucigalpa, Central District, 23 April 1988.

[Signed] Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate

Anticommunist Group Begins 'Propaganda Campaign'
PA2604020188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1642 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE) — The recently created clandestine Anticommunist Action Alliance [Alianza de Accion Anticomunista] (Triple A) is carrying out an intense house-to-house propaganda campaign in Honduras.

Leaflets explaining what Triple A is and the dangers of "communist penetration" as well as photographs of communism's alleged promoters appeared today in several homes in Tegucigalpa and San Pedro Sula, 240 km north of the capital.

Triple A first appeared on 21 April, when thousands of posters with pictures of well-known leaders of communist organizations were put up in Tegucigalpa.

Those named in the posters have pointed out that their lives have been threatened by an organization they describe as "paramilitary and that has been created with the approval of the government and of the Army to carry out unlimited repression."

Those pictured include Ramon Custodio, president of the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights, and well-known labor union, student, and professional leaders.

Nicaragua

Ortega on Contra Meeting, 'Confusion' in Ranks
PA2504134088 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Statement by President Daniel Ortega on 24 April; place not given—recorded]

[Text] The head of those who oppose the Sapoa agreements is Bermudez, the Somozist colonel. This (?pig) acts this way because he feels supported by the U.S. Government. There is confusion right now among the contras. On one side there is the position of those who signed the Sapoa agreements, and, on the other, there is the position held by Bermudez. He is supported by the U.S. Government, which is trying to scuttle the Sapoa agreements, to prevent peace, and to make the war continue. This is the situation right now.

They have been meeting since Friday in Honduras, (?where people want peace), discussing the cease-fire. They talked about meeting on 28, 29, and 30 [April] here in Managua to continue the talks until the Sapoa agreements are completely fulfilled. We are waiting for the results of the meeting they are holding, because whether we advance rapidly or slowly along the path to peace depends on the results of this meeting.

However, despite these obstacles, the work that is being done and that remains to be done in the countryside is important. Messages must be sent to the relatives or through the relatives of the contras to those who are of peasant [word indistinct] urging them to accept the peace plan and to devote themselves to working for it, because they have no future as long as they maintain this attitude. We have clearly stated that if the peace plan does not work, we will have no other choice but to completely mobilize our forces to crush the contras who do not accept the peace plan. Those who accept the peace plan will have the opportunity to work, the opportunity to produce, the opportunity to participate in the political life [word indistinct] of this country.

Contra Leader Killed in Choluteca, Honduras
PA2504190288 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1810 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Gustavo Herdocia Salinas, called "El Licenciado" in the ranks of the contras in Honduras, was shot four times and killed on a street in Choluteca on Friday night.

The lawyer Gustavo Herdocia Salinas, who is of Nicaraguan origin, was shot four times in various vital organs. According to the Honduran police, no one was able to prevent the murder or capture the murderer, who quickly fled.

Another report states that Gustavo Herdocia Salinas, alias "El Licenciado," was a trusted aide of contra chief Aristides Sanchez, a brother of Somozist deputy Enrique Sanchez Herdocia.

Gustavo Herdocia Salinas was one of the people in charge of handling the contra funds in Honduras. He was linked to Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez Varela.

Thus, the first fatal blows are being struck within the ranks of the contras as a result of their internal differences.

Ramirez on Contra Talks, Sapoa Agreements

PM251433 Madrid DIARIO 16 in Spanish
18 Apr 88 p 18

[Interview with Vice President Sergio Ramirez by Enrique Clemente in Madrid on 17 April]

[Excerpt] Madrid—"I cannot say that we feel euphoric about talking with the contras in Managua, but we are prepared to make a sacrifice for a political purpose, which is peace for Nicaragua," Sergio Ramirez, vice president of the Managua government, told DIARIO 16 yesterday.

Ramirez has been in Madrid since last Saturday, and tomorrow he will present his latest novel, "Divine Punishment." He also plans to meet Wednesday with Deputy Prime Minister Alfonso Guerra and Thursday with Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez.

[Clemente] Do you believe that the talks taking place in Managua between the Sandinist government and the contras could lead to a permanent cease-fire, and hence to peace for Nicaragua?

[Ramirez] The most important thing is that we are in a negotiation process defined by the framework of the Sapoa agreements, whose ultimate aim is a permanent cease-fire. It is a complex negotiation, as is any negotiation which seeks to end a war in order to bring peace. The main elements for achieving this are already in place, and I foresee no significant setbacks. However, I do not rule out the possibility that there will have to be another round.

[Clemente] But you will not deny that, at least emotionally, the contra leaders' arrival in Managua is a blow to the Sandinists.

[Ramirez] It is not emotionalism which is the most important thing but achieving the political aim we have set ourselves. The arrival in Managua is something incidental; it would have been the same thing if the talks had been held in Masaya or in Leon.

[Clemente] However, the contras have presented their return to Managua as a real political triumph. How far are you prepared to go? Will you negotiate only the cease-fire or also what your opponents call the country's "democratization"?

[Ramirez] I insist that the decisive thing for us is peace. In order to discuss the reform of the Constitution and political issues we abide by what is envisaged by the Sapoa agreements.

Once the counterrevolutionary forces enter the enclaves envisaged for them, their leaders will join in the national dialogue in which the opposition parties are now involved. The contra leadership will send eight representatives. We are not refusing to reform the Constitution.

[Clemente] Would you be prepared to surrender power to people who foreseeably would end what you call "irreversible gains of the Sandinist revolution"?

[Ramirez] The Constitution clearly says that the majority party in a democratic election is the one responsible for governing. We will try to win the election and secure a third term, as Oscar Arias' National Liberation Party can do in Costa Rica without anybody saying anything. With respect to the reforms that would be introduced in the country, they should be based on national consensus. I do not believe that the Nicaraguan people want the land to be returned to the landowners, the banks to be denationalized, or the Central Bank to be handed over to private groups.

[Clemente] What obstacles still stand between the government and the contras in the negotiations?

[Ramirez] We implemented the first part of what was envisaged in Sapoa by releasing 100 prisoners on Palm Sunday. However, because of the uncertainty which the contras imparted to the negotiations, the second part—the delimitation of the areas where the rebels must assemble and the ways of operating in them—could not be carried out. The main problem is the demarcation of the enclaves.

[Clemente] Do you believe it is possible to integrate the contras into Nicaragua's normal political life after a bloody 6-year civil war?

[Ramirez] I believe that some of them will do that, while others will stay abroad, where they have found a way of earning their living. They will join the existing political parties or form others quite freely and immediately.

[Clemente] You have stated that "President Reagan still does not want peace." Why does he not want it?

[Ramirez] Reagan and a small inner circle in the White House still cling to the idea which they have always had—of overthrowing the Nicaraguan Government. However, it is becoming more difficult for them now, since the contras acknowledged its constitutional nature in the Sapoa agreements.

[Clemente] Turning to the latest crises which have arisen in Panama and Honduras, how do you assess them?

[Ramirez] In Panama it is not Noriega but the Panamanians' right to settle their own affairs that is at issue. In Honduras the problem stems not from the extradition of an alleged drug trafficker (Matta), but from an action constituting, in effect, the last drop that caused the cup of humiliations to overflow. Many things have been atrociously imposed on a worthy country and people.

[Clemente] Great emphasis is being placed on the Sandinists' implementation of, or failure to implement, the Esquipulas agreements, but do you believe that the other Central American countries are implementing them?

[Ramirez] I would like a process of national dialogue similar to ours to be started in Guatemala and El Salvador, or a cease-fire such as we have achieved to be achieved. We do not share—far from it—the idea which people are seeking to spread that Nicaragua is the Cinderella of democracy compared with four other perfect democracies.

[Clemente] What influence have the changes introduced by Mikhail Gorbachev in the Soviet Union had on Nicaragua?

[Ramirez] It should rather be asked how our model has influenced the USSR. We were the first to apply the model of political pluralism, the mixed economy, and nonalignment. The revolution began with that model. We have not evolved from a totalitarian system to liberalism.

[Clemente] So did you invent perestroyka?

[Ramirez] In a sense, yes (he said, smiling). [passage omitted]

PCN Urges Parties To Withdraw From Dialogue

PA2304193588 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, PCN, public relations secretariat in Managua on 21 April]

[Text] The PCN [Nicaraguan Conservative Party] public relations secretariat informs the Nicaraguan people and the international community that:

In today's regular session, the PCN board of directors unanimously decided to order Julio Ruiz Quesada, PCN political secretary and main delegate to the national dialogue, to began consultations with the allied political parties participating in the national dialogue to express the PCN's deep concern about the slowness and lack of effectiveness of that dialogue, in which the government is preventing all advancements and decisions for the country's democratization.

The aforementioned consultations must be completed quickly and summarized in a communique signed by as many of the group of 14 parties as possible. The communique must clearly assess the status of the dialogue and must also state that if the situation remains unchanged, the signatory parties will be forced to suspend their participation in the dialogue, because it is a deception of the national public opinion.

The document must also include the need to suspend participation in the dialogue until the RN delegates participate as agreed in Sapoa.

Silviano Matamoros Lacayo, PCN national secretary

Julio Ruiz Quesada, PCN political secretary

Jaime Chamorro Cardenal, PCN public relations secretary

Managua, 21 April 1988

Opposition Said 'Trapped'

PA2304154088 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 21 Apr 88 p 2

[Editorial: "A Trapped Opposition"]

[Text] The 14 political parties that agreed on the urgent need to make substantial reforms to the Constitution imposed unilaterally by the Sandinists—if there is a real desire to seriously initiate a true democratization process in Nicaragua—are now trapped in the bog of subterfuge that the Sandinists have been using to prevent such reforms.

Not only do the Sandinists intend to prevent any reform of the text of their constitution, in which they deliberately established their status as the hegemonic, totalitarian party; at the same time, they have managed to keep the entire internal civic opposition seated at the table of the National Dialogue, with obvious propaganda benefits and obvious manipulation of international public opinion.

Twenty-four sessions or rounds of the famous "dialogue" have already transpired, and to date the opposition has not had even the slightest—to say nothing of substantial—success in the form of acceptance of a single constitutional reform among the 17 presented. There has

not even been any formal acceptance that could demonstrate or suggest an honest willingness on the part of the government to be receptive to the opposition's proposals.

There have been discussions of agendas, creation of commissions to discuss agendas, presentation of plans for discussion, itemization of concepts, charges, countercharges, etc, etc—everything except serious talk about the subject of reform, much less acceptance of it.

The opposition political leaders describe this situation as a clear violation of the commitments made by the government in Esquipulas II, which it obviously is, but they hesitate at the moment to take firmer positions to uncover the Sandinist duplicity and deceit.

They allege that a definitive withdrawal could be "impolitic," as well as futile, but on the other hand, they say that they have not joined together to denounce this Sandinist hypocrisy because they fear that the fragile convergence that makes them appear united might be broken if agreements were reached that they could not all support.

Thus, they are trapped and they must identify the internal element that keeps them hopeful and intimidated at the same time. They must decide what is more important: to continue in this bog, allowing themselves to be manipulated as a pawn of worldwide communist disinformation at the service of Sandinism (local communism), or to adopt firm, demanding positions, even risking their unity, in order to show up the government's falsity or achieve the proposed objective.

To demonstrate their skill in obtaining their final objective without becoming disunited is the challenge facing the civic opposition. And that objective is not just the unity of the 14, but the democratization of Nicaragua.

Liberal Party Issues Statement on Reconciliation

PA2204200888 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 22 Apr 88

["Text" of statement issued by the Liberal Party in Managua; date not given]

[Text] Camino Real Hotel, Managua, Nicaragua

Reconciliation, Democratization, and Peace [subhead]

After the resistance arrived in Nicaragua and held talks with the FSLN government as a result of the Sapoa agreements, the Liberal Party, PALI, would like to make note of the following reflections:

1. We are seeking a total national reconciliation among Nicaraguans, putting aside hatred, desires for revenge, and ambitions. But while on the one hand, the government speaks of peace and democracy, on the other hand, using its audio and press media, it launches attacks of hatred and violence, and pushes and manipulates the people.

2. In its newscast on Saturday, 16 April 1988, the Sistema Sandinista Television Network featured Commander Dora Maria Tellez, who said the FSLN has the people and the weapons. We are hearing the same old stories in our country. Those who have the weapons are the ones who have the power, and they care nothing about the misery and suffering of an entire nation.

3. On Tuesday, 19 April 1988, Commander and President Daniel Ortega, at a Sandinist Defense Committee rally, delivered yet another of his many tirades of hatred and warmongering, threatening and insulting the Nicaraguans' intelligence, good faith, and patience. When will we ever hear something constructive and promising from President Ortega?

No one wants a return to the past. That is just a Sandinist tale that impresses no one anymore, because nobody wants a return to the past. Let us build something useful for Nicaragua someday. Whether we like it or not, the 48 years of Somozist tyranny were a reality experienced by three generations. Let us fight against what that dictatorship left us with: servility, opportunism, and all the other flaws a dictatorship leaves behind. Sandinists must stop using the names of Somoza, Sacasa, etc as demagogic instruments, because today we can find even more selfish, exploitative, and privileged Somozists within the Sandinist regime.

A reconciliation is urgent and necessary. The people are aware of it and long for reconciliation, democracy, and peace. But they can also see who has intentionally invoked peace to fool the people and to stay in power by using demagogy, war, repression, and brute force.

Signed: The president of the Liberal Party [name not given]

TU Group Calls for 25 April Hunger Strike

PA2404130288 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2330 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Managua, 23 Apr (DPA)—The Nicaraguan Workers Permanent Congress [Congreso Permanente De Los Trabajadores de Nicaragua], comprising four labor federations, has called construction workers, mechanics, and food industry workers and leaders to a hunger strike on Monday, 25 April to demand better salaries. Furthermore, these organizations called for a march to stress their claims. This march will be held in Managua tomorrow.

According to the report, the International Red Cross offices in Managua will be the site of this protest. However, this location could be changed if the government bars the workers from the area. The workers, who could number as many as 4,000, demand salary hikes of up to 200 percent over the rates established by the Labor Ministry.

The hunger strike is the final phase in a series of demands by workers who have been demanding salaries commensurate with the cost of living in Nicaragua. The workers' began advancing their series of demands when the government published its "monetary reforms" as a means to avoid greater inflation.

Members of the Confederation for Trade Union Unity, the Committee for Union Unity and Action [Comite de Accion y Unificacion Sindical], the General Confederation of Independent Workers, and the Autonomous Nicaraguan Workers Central Organization [Central de Trabajadores de Nicaragua Autonoma] have decided to support the hunger strike because there has been no progress in negotiations between the government and the workers. These negotiations were the result of an agreement signed between President Daniel Ortega and the eight [number as received] political parties participating in the National Dialogue.

In the past several weeks, a dozen construction workers were arrested by the police for propaganda activity related to their economic demands. The workers were later released. Other workers linked to the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers have rejected the strike, and confrontations between leaders of the different sectors have occurred.

Wheelock Inaugurates Agroindustrial Project

PA2404154188 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] The revolutionary government has invested $20 million in an agroindustrial project in Sebaco which will make Nicaragua an international supplier of vegetables.

Agriculture ministers from Central America, Panama, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic were present yesterday at the inauguration of Sebaco's agroindustrial project. Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, minister of agricultural-livestock development and agrarian reform, delivered the opening speech. Wheelock said that the project cost approximately $20 million and that some 20 kinds of vegetables are to be processed, both for national supply and for export.

[Begin recording] [Wheelock] The agricultural component corresponds to an investment in irrigation as well as cultivation and harvesting technology costing about $3,000 per manzana. In other words, we are talking about 1,600 manzanas at $3,000 per manzana. This has been an important and considerable investment on the part of the revolutionary government in order to make the Sebaco Valley an international supplier of vegetable products. In this way we are taking full advantage of the potential of the Sebaco Valley's soil, climate and water resources which are in reality natural resources of enormous importance for Nicaragua. Very few countries have a 30,000-hectare valley 500 meters above sea level with adequate water resources from two rivers and from subterranean waters. These soil and agro-climatic conditions of altitude and of precipitation are highly adequate for the growth of vegetables and fruits.

The second investment is that of a processing plant for 12 different kinds of vegetables: tomatoes, tomato concentrate, peeled tomatoes, okra, (chiltoma), green beans, and other vegetables, as well as mixed vegetables, vegetables and meat, garlic, and dehydrated onion, all of which will contribute, first of all, to the stable supply of these products for the produce markets around the country. This will stabilize the domestic supply. Second, this is a project for exports. We will basically export canned goods and for this purpose we have a factory specifically for producing canned goods and 70 percent of its work will be devoted to this project. The plant cost approximately (?$20) million at today's prices.

[Reporter] Which countries have financed this project for Nicaragua?

[Wheelock] Fundamentally, this is a project that was planned with Bulgaria through a credit that it granted to Nicaragua and that we will pay back over a long period of several years with the export of the valley's products. There is also Italian and Spanish technology—the boilers are Spanish—as well as that of other countries of the EEC. [end recording]

Briefs

Countries Pledge Aid

Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, foreign cooperation minister, and UN official (Henry Meyer) yesterday signed an agreement providing 1.2 million cordobas to Nicaragua for the implementation of an industrial development program. This will help in the development of the textile, shoe, pharmaceutical, plastic, food, and construction materials industries. An agreement is also being signed with Sweden today so it can supply Nicaragua with a shipment of beans. Italy, the EEC, and the socialist countries, including the USSR, have said they will supply Nicaragua with more rice and Bulgaria has offered to supply wheat. [Summary] [*PA2404005588 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Apr 88*]

Panama

Lt Col Herrera Requests Dismissal Information

PA2604021888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2042 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE) — Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Herrera Hassan, Panamanian ambassador to Israel, in a letter addressed to General Manuel

Antonio Noriega, Panamanian Army chief, has said that he did not receive any official notice on his discharge from the Army.

In the letter from Tel Aviv on 24 April, Lt Col Herrera advised that through relatives and friends he learned "with surprise that I have been discharged for not having fulfilled an institutional order." ACAN-EFE had access to this letter today.

On 21 April, a Panamanian Army spokesman confirmed Lt Col Herrera's discharge to ACAN-EFE. The top officer was discharged "for not fulfilling an order from the commanding office"; however, Herrera Hassan asserts that "we have not yet received an official notice of the discharge," although he requested a clarification of the unofficial report he received.

Lt Col Herrera, who has served the Panamanian Army for 22 years and is considered late Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera's "military heir," also requested to be told what order he was given that he did not carry out.

Herrera reminded Noriega in his letter that he received an official notice on 2 and 11 February stating that his "mission in Israel had ended."

On 28 February, however, 3 days after former President Eric Arturo Delvalle was deposed, he received a note from Lieutenant Colonel Elias Castillo telling him to continue "with his diplomatic mission."

On 7 March, Herrera Hassan received a note from Sublieutenant Pablo Villareal confirming the orders given in the last note he had received.

Lt Col Herrera said in his letter to Gen Noriega that Castillo had called to tell him that the "general staff had decided that he should continue working" in Israel.

Finally, Lt Col Herrera said in his note that he talked with the personnel of the Panamanian Embassy in Israel, and they told him they had not received any other note, phone call, or telex message from the Panama Defense Forces other than the last one he had received.

Noriega Adviser on U.S 'Pressure,' FDP Role

FL2504144088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1249 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Interview with Dr Renato Pereira, adviser of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, chief of the Panama Defense Forces, FDP, by Nelson Notario Castro, special Cuban correspondent, in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Notario Castro] Dr Pereira, there is talk these days of negotiations. In your view, how far would the negotiations go? What would be negotiated?

[Pereira] Well, the national government and the patriotic forces have submitted to the U.S.-backed opposition that the correct solution to the crisis of opinion that the country is facing is dialogue, a negotiated solution. This does not at all mean that the government or the patriotic forces—including the FDP, of course—are going to negotiate national dignity or sovereignty. The problem is not Noriega's stubbornness but a problem of national sovereignty that has lasted 85 years. From 1903, the United States has exercised a kind of military protectorate over our country. From that very date on, the Panamanian people, intellectuals, patriotic figures, and patriotic organizations have struggled to put an end to that colonialist protectorate and to establish an independent, totally sovereign republic, like the rest of the republics of the civilized world. That is the situation.

[Notario Castro] As president of the FDP's center for higher military and political studies, how does nationalism and Torrijism come out in this confrontation with the enemy?

[Pereira] Well, it is evident that our country lives on the verge of explosion as a result of the economic, political, diplomatic, and military pressure exerted by the United States over our country. This has brought about the emergence of nationalist sentiments, which, I repeat, are traditional. This is a country with a long-standing patriotic tradition. What is happening today has made this nation rediscover its staunch nationalism and it readiness to fight for national dignity and pride. This is visible, patent in all popular sectors, among the intellectuals and among the FDP.

[Notario Castro] Dr Pereira, what would happen if the Yankees attack militarily?

[Pereira] I do not think a military adventure would be easy for the Americans. It would not be easy, first of all, because the Panamanian people have already demonstrated their determination to resist any kind of military aggression. Second, because condemnation by the civilized world, especially Latin America, of a U.S. military intervention would be very, very harsh.

[Notario Castro] How would the FDP come out in a direct confrontation with American troops?

[Pereira] The whole world knows that our FDP is an evolving Army, very brave and full of dignity and pride. However, it is a developing country's Army. We are not a great military power. Yet I feel that though, from the military point of view, it may be relatively easy to occupy our country, it would be an uneasy occupation. The United States would find itself inside a hornet's nest. It would find itself amid a hostile population led in its patriotic spirit by an Armed Forces ready to do their duty to the end, as Gen Noriega, their general staff, and the midlevel officers have declared many times.

[Notario Castro] Hundreds, thousands of people are training militarily to help the FDP in the defense of the fatherland if the Americans dare attack this country militarily. What is your opinion of these battalions of the militia of dignity?

[Pereira] The decision of many Panamanians to train militarily to defend the fatherland has been well received by FDP leaders. Hundreds of Panamanians are training to defend national sovereignty, dignity, and pride. This decision is nothing more than one more manifestation, at a higher level, of our country's historical struggle for its sovereignty and independence.

[Notario Castro] As for American economic aggression, how much more could the United States tighten its economic measures against Panama? How many more economic measures against it can Panama take?

[Pereira] The Americans have tightened all the screws. It has applied all economic measures possible. Nevertheless, life goes on. The people continue to prepare for the worst. We are not starving, though the Americans have laid a siege of hunger. The important thing is the will to resist. The important thing is that these are people who are proud of their nationalism. It is not the first time that they face this kind of threat, this kind of aggression. As can be clearly seen, they are ready to resist and to win. I believe that it is difficult to conquer a people who are ready to resist and to win.

[Notario Castro] Could this direct confrontation with the United States, this support the FDP is receiving from the people, open up a new stage in the FDP's military and political training?

[Pereira] The FDP is undergoing a process of unceasing professionalization and improvement. This is particularly evident since Gen Noriega became commander of the FDP. I believe that training is going to continue its normal course until the FDP realizes the conditions to fully assume its task of defending the canal in the year 2000, when it will be totally ours, and to defend national sovereignty against anyone who tries to violate our territorial integrity and national dignity.

[Notario Castro] What is the solution to the crisis?

[Pereira] Dialogue is imperative. Sooner or later, the opposition—which is a minority because they are willing to betray—has to be confronted. If dialogue is the course, then the most explicit form of that dialogue will be seen in May 1989, when general elections are held to elect a president, deputies, councillors, and mayors. I believe that the patriotic forces are going to win those elections—if they are held, if we are allowed to hold them, if we are allowed to bring our democratic process to culmination.

[Notario Castro] How do you feel about Latin American solidarity for Panama?

[Pereira] It has been important, and it is growing. There are an increasing number of voices in Latin America that express understanding of the position that the Panamanian problem is one of decolonization. They resolutely support our government and our Armed Forces, as well as the nationalist people of Panama.

[Notario Castro] Independent of this confrontation between the Panamanian people and the United States, there are those who believe that the real solution to Panama's main problems, aside from this current, evident U.S. aggression, is the solution of the problems of Panamanian society. What do you think about this?

[Pereira] I'll be very frank with you. You cannot even discuss a social project, whatever it is, if you don't first have a fatherland. The first thing we have to do in our country is to defend our fatherland, to have a fatherland, to have an independent nation. Everything else has to wait. If you are a patriot, all social projects are postponed. The order of the day is the fight for a fatherland in which those projects can be freely discussed. That is my answer.

[Notario Castro] So you think that the solution of the canal problems—that is, once Panama obtains full and absolute sovereignty over the Canal—could open the door for a solution to the rest of the problems faced by Panamanian society?

[Pereira] Well, I say that in the struggle for the defense of the fatherland, to have a fatherland... [rephrases] Of course, the Americans' threat represents a threat of dissolution of the Panamanian nation. You can't be discussing pressing, painful social problems now if you don't have an assurance that you are going to have a fatherland. It is the time for the patriots, for patriotism. It is the time for confidence in the patriotic leadership of the national government, the patriotic forces and the FDP. If you are not clear on that—the fact that you have to have a fatherland first—why discuss the other things? From what stage can you discuss socialism, a liberal capitalist regime, a statist regime, if you don't have the scenario, in other words, the fatherland?

[Notario Castro] Thank you. Do you have a message for the Cuban people?

[Pereira] Yes, congratulations on the successes achieved in their own revolution.

Colombians Reportedly Beaten by Soldiers

PA2204160588 Madrid EFE in Spanish
1515 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Bogota, 22 Apr (EFE) — Seven Colombians, who were conducting a scientific and journalistic mission in Panama, said today that Panamanian military men accused them of "spying," beat them up, and forced them to return to Colombia on foot after leaving them in the middle of the jungle.

The group is comprised of two reporters, three cameramen, a sociologist, and a doctor. They were preparing a report about the possibilities of constructing a road in the so-called Darien Gap, which is an almost impenetrable jungle zone in the border between Panama and Colombia.

In the Colombian border department of El Choco, the members of the expedition told the authorities and the media that although their documents were in order, the Panamanian military men arrested them and held them incommunicado at Palo de Letras, where the expedition members were accused of espionage and violently beaten.

The Colombians added that subsequently the military men abandoned them near the border in an inhospitable area and ordered them to walk the remaining 32 km back to Colombia.

Reporter Rodrigo Maya, one of the members of the expedition, said: "We are very sick and beaten. They beat us up a lot." [passage omitted]

Sources at the Panamanian Consulate in Medellin said today that the Colombian citizens had obtained their visas in the usual way and that they did not have any official report from Panama about the incident. [passage omitted]

Retirees Protest by Blocking Central Avenue

PA2504192088 Paris AFP in Spanish
1848 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 25 Apr (AFP) — Approximately 300 retirees today blocked Panama City's Central Avenue to demand that the Manuel Solis Palma government cash their retirement checks.

The 50 to 80-year-old demonstrators gathered near the National Bank of Panama where they shouted slogans against the government, which they accused of being a "liar" because it had promised to cash their checks today.

"We want our money," the demonstrators shouted while holding up hundreds of checks. They also demanded the resignation of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Defense Forces, and of President Manuel Solis Palma.

On 23 April, approximately 30,000 retirees received their pensions in checks of $25 and $50 which the government had promised to cash today.

Nevertheless, due to the shortage of dollars, the legal currency in Panama, National Bank officials told the retirees that "the government does not have money."

Some elderly people, who had been standing in front of the National Bank since early in the morning, had to be taken to hospitals after they fainted.

Traffic on busy Central Avenue remained paralyzed although no disturbances broke out. Meanwhile, the police are maintaining discreet watch over the area.

Civic Crusade Responds to Cabinet Changes

PA2504184088 Panama City ACAN in Spanish
1752 GMT 25 Apr 88

[By Hernan Martin]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE)—The opposition Civic Crusade today responded to the announcement of a deep reorganization of the Panamanian Government with a call for new protests against General Manuel Antonio Noriega. [passage omitted]

All of the new ministers are members of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), the majority party in the government coalition. The cabinet includes only one member of the Liberal Party, Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari, who is considered one of the "hardliners" regarding the strategy to handle the crisis.

The Civic Crusade reacted to the new cabinet by announcing a new campaign of protests "against communism and against Gen Noriega," whose removal as military commander it has been demanding for more than 10 months.

The Crusade called for a demonstration on Thursday when it plans to station its supporters on the sidewalks of one of the city's main commercial streets and to block traffic.

The business sectors, which have been paralyzed because of the closing of banks, have confirmed their participation in this protest and have assigned each other specific sections of the street to block stretching over several kilometers. [passage omitted]

Opposition Unity Discussed

PA2304033388 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Interview with Tomas Herrera, coordinator of the National Civic Crusade, CCN, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Herrera] As far as we know and have been told, the opposition parties have not talked directly with General Noriega. They have not done so. This has been said and reiterated to us by the Authentic Panamenist Party, the Authentic Liberal Party, MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement], the Christian Democratic Party, and the Popular Action Party. They have not held a direct dialogue—or anything resembling it—with Gen Noriega.

[Reporter] Sir...

[Herrera, interrupting] Consequently—allow me to add—there is no division between the National Civic Crusade [CCN] and the democratic opposition parties. The unity among us continues, and we are doing everything possible to maintain this unity. The opposition parties and the CCN are aware that the only thing that can guarantee a real democratic change, authentic democracy, is unity among the opposition parties.

Abadia Says U.S. Trying To Provoke Incident

PA2304195088 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia has said that Panama has not been removed from the Contadora Group and that the objective of the North Americans is to isolate the nation. Here are his remarks:

[Begin Abadia recording] It is obvious that they [the United States] have taken the path of action. They have mobilized a large number of troops. They have been carrying out a number of provocative exercises. They are doing everything possible to provoke our armed forces and to create an incident to invade Panama with the more than 18,000 [number as heard] troops they have in the Canal Zone. [end recording]

Abadia stated this to members of a WPC delegation. The Panamanian foreign minister added that at no time has Panama been expelled from the Contadora Group and that the United States is trying to isolate the country. Abadia said:

[Begin Abadia recording] It is important to stress that Panama has counted on the solidaristic support of all Latin American and Caribbean peoples who continue to constantly support us. This is one of the reasons why General Walters is now in South America trying to turn Latin America against Panama. We also predict that he will fail in this new offensive against Panama. [end recording]

New Foreign Minister Predicts Solution 'Soon'

PA2504195188 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1900 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Bogota, 25 Apr (DPA)—New Panamanian Foreign Minister Jorge Eduardo Ritter today said that his country will very soon overcome its crisis "but with a Panamanian solution."

Although he did not explain what the specific solution would be, he said that General Manuel Antonio Noriega has already placed his resignation at the disposal of acting President Manuel Solis Palma, but he added that the Panamanians will not tolerate the United States or any other nation telling them how, when, and why they should do something.

The new Panamanian foreign minister, who replaced Jorge Abadia Arias, was Panamanian ambassador to Colombia from 1982 to 1987. He is 37 years old, was born in Panama City, graduated from the Law and Political Science Department of Bogota's Javeriana University in 1972 and is married to a Colombian.

Speaking to Bogota's EL TIEMPO from New York where he held the post of ambassador to the United Nations, Ritter said that "we are aware that we have all lost" and that as a result the situation will be resolved soon.

He said that his country hopes to normalize its relations with the United States soon "but we will not tolerate impositions."

U.S. Embassy Accused of Planning 25 April Coup

PA2204135288 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 22 Apr 88 p 1

[Article by Carlos J. Nunez L.]

[Text] U.S. Embassy officials have distributed $1 million in bribes in the past few days—most of it personally delivered by John Maisto and Arthur Davis, the ambassador—to stage a coup d'etat on Monday.

According to sources close to the U.S. Embassy in Panama, Davis, following direct orders from Maisto—the "man who is truly in command" at the Embassy because Mr Davis sleeps until late hours in the morning as a result of marathon drinking sessions—has been managing the bribing funds to ensure a coup d'etat is staged on Monday, 25 April.

Davis, on one of his drinking sprees, went as far as saying that "everything was ready for Monday, the 25th." This will be the "final push," he said in his slurred half-Spanish, to finally overthrow the government.

Davis is an experienced conspirator who was expelled from Paraguay a few years ago because he was meddling in the domestic affairs of that country. Krista Davis, his daughter, was expelled together with him for being dissolute and an alcoholic.

In addition, CRITICA has learned from other sources that the colonialist arrogance has reached such an extreme that Maisto has ordered Davis not to pay the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] energy bills for the Embassy building located on Balboa Avenue and the ambassador's residence located in La Cresta.

However, the situation has gone even further, because Maisto claims to have the support of Isaac Rodriguez, the outlawed former IRHE union leader, who has told his people that if [IRHE Director] Eng Barrelier orders the energy to be cut off at the Embassy and the ambassador's residence, this order should not be carried out,

because in his role as an employee on the Embassy payroll, he will not permit this. However, the gringos Maisto and Davis are seeking political contacts to prevent this energy cut at any expense.

Church Officials on Mediation, U.S. Sanctions

PA2404022088 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2112 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Panama City, 23 Apr (DPA)—Papal Nuncio Sebastian Laboa has emphatically denied reports of an alleged mediation by him and Archbishop Marcos Gregorio McGrath to bring about a dialogue between General Manuel Antonio Noriega and the Panamanian opposition.

"There has been no contact in this regard and I do not believe that any thought can be given to any such thing for the time being," Laboa told DPA.

The representative of the Holy See again expressed surprise at the reports that he is mediating the conflict in Panama.

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who is one of the proponents of church mediation, suggested that Laboa and McGrath act as moderators in a dialogue between the government and the opposition.

Archbishop McGrath said that even though the nuncio has tried to use his influence to promote the dialogue, the report about his mediation is "groundless."

The administration of Manuel Solis Palma has asserted that it is prepared to engage in a dialogue without conditions, but the opposition demands that Noriega step down before any dialogue can begin.

For his part, McGrath feels that Panama is running out of time and that "there will be chaos in Panama in about 3 weeks" if no solution is found.

He disclosed that some talks have been held between government and opposition sectors but said that they are not effective because neither Gen Noriega nor any military men representing him have particpated.

In another development, McGrath and the episcopate issued a pastoral letter today in which they criticized the military interference and the lack of democratic freedoms, and condemned U.S. economic sanctions against Panama, describing them as violations of the nation's sovereignty.

Arias Calderon on Political Pressure

PA2304030788 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], believes that pressure continues to be the best way to achieve favorable changes on the path toward democratization in the country. Arias Calderon said that the solution to the crisis is in the hands of those in power, who should listen to the voices of the majority demanding changes.

[Arias Calderon] "I do not believe that pressure is solely a PDC strategy; it is a strategy implemented by the Civic Crusade and the parties that support it. The idea is to maintain pressure using all legal means at our disposal. It is a strategy aimed at gaining international solidarity—the solidarity of all the Latin American, European, and U.S. democratic forces. The strategy also includes calling on all professional and constitutionally appointed officials—or those who wish to become professional and constitutionally appointed officials—to join the huge majority of Panamanians who are searching for a solution in line with the Civic Crusade's ideals.

"I have heard some media reporting that there are talks under way between the Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA] and the government; However, PPA second secretary Francisco Artola has denied that these talks are being held. I am convinced that the PPA and the other opposition parties continue to support the Civic Crusade."

Molirena Calls for Talks With Armed Forces

PA2304135488 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Jorge Ruben Rosas, Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement [Molirena] legislator, advocates a dialogue between the armed forces and the opposition parties to end the crisis in Panama. Here is what he said:

[Begin recording] [Rosas] More than an impasse, what exists is a profound crisis that is harming the Panamanian people and has placed us in a state of moral and physical decay. I think that it is imperative to look for a Panamanian solution.

However, I also think that this solution can only be achieved the day talks and negotiations are held and an agreement is reached between authorized members of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP]—which have exercised and retained power for a long time—and the large sectors of the democratic opposition represented by the National Civic Crusade [CCN] and the opposition parties for the establishment—I repeat, for the establishment—of an interim government, of a transitional government, of a government of national reconciliation to restore institutional stability, credibility, and confidence

and to guarantee freedom, democracy, and justice. It must also be an effective guarantee that free, open, and honest elections will be held to give way to a popularly elected government with strong popular support that is capable of undertaking the enormous task of reconstructing our nation.

Our country is destroyed. Our economy is destroyed. All that remains is the rubble of a once prosperous situation and this is the result of the latest interference in our country's institutional life.

[Reporter] Mr Rosas, do you foresee any likelihood or possibility of formalizing this proposal so the opposition parties may submit it to the FDP?

[Rosas] I believe that the FDP must reflect on this matter. They seized power 20 years ago, when we had a thriving economy and the highest growth rate in Latin America. We had legal and administrative order. Our fiscal situation was sound and our financial situation unsullied, so to speak. We are today in the most sorry state in Latin America in all of these areas.

Therefore, the FDP must reflect and seek a formula—along with the large sectors of the democratic opposition and the CCN—to find a solution and not cause further damage. [end recording]

SCN Accused of Looking Out for CIA Interests

PA2404175388 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 24 Apr 88 p 6-a

["By the Way" column by Justo Arroyo: "Looking Out for You"—headline published in English]

[Text] No, I am not becoming a gringo by bits and pieces, as Ricardo Miro feared. The strange words in English, which are the title of this column, are the slogan of the gringo television station Channel 8, the Southern Command station, Southern Command Network, or SCN. The translation is something like: "We're taking care of you, or "We are looking out for you." In any event, the television channel seeks to portray the image of a protector, the eyes and ears ensuring the welfare and tranquillity of the zone inhabitants.

This television station began reflecting the views of the gringos who work in the Canal Zone. There were a lot of sports, a lot of quiz programs, a lot of soap operas, many programs appropriate for the continual dulling of the viewer's senses. They were on the air from 0700 to 0100 the next morning. And they would end telecasting activities by playing both national anthems and showing both flags. This was all very pretty and proper for a good neighbor.

In the wake of the efforts by the crusade, SCN, like a good CIA affiliate, placed itself at the service of the Chamber of Commerce and APEDE [Panamanian Association of Business Executives]. It broadcast 24 hours a day, airing all the gringo newcasts that attacked the Panamanian Government and even violated the treaty agreements by becoming a spokesman for the opposition, airing its views on screen.

SCN announced the demonstrations held by the Crusade in Panama, providing the names of the streets, plazas, and avenues; it regularly aired seditious meetings and interviews and, last, it publicized and sponsored the meetings organized by the Crusade members in the Canal Zone, openly violating the treaties, endangering the security of the canal, and bragging that the Canal Zone was "a safe place for demonstrations." (sic)

The provocation, disinformation, and meddling by SCN has no parallel in the relations between the two countries. And when the waters return to their level, despite the gringos' efforts to the contrary, Panama will have the most eloquent argument regarding the U.S. Government's total lack of credibility.

With what face will Ronald Reagan and the U.S. Congress be able to speak of agreements, pacts, and treaties with the United States? Who can trust a government that signs one thing today and brazenly renounces it by force tomorrow? How dare they appear before the world speaking of "justice" when they violate it systematically? What seriousness can Reagan demonstrate negotiating with Gorbachev when his word on the Torrijos-Carter Treaties is not worth the ink it was written with? What country will risk having done to it what is being done to Panama, which is being economically, psychologically, and militarily attacked.

SCN, Channel 8, has played a front-line role in the Yankee aggression. And here are the tapes that prove it. They have wanted to "look out for," to "safeguard" the gringos in the Canal Zone, and they have created a war paranoia with their Alfas, Bravos, and Charlies [referring to Personnel Movement Limitations announced by the U.S. Southern Command], despite the calm prevailing in Panama. But also, as evidence of the disinformation to which the gringos are subject, it has lied and remained silent regarding the dead and wounded as a result of the Yankee incompetence.

The only thing SCN has "looked out for," the only thing it has "safeguarded," according to its famous slogan, are the interests of the CIA. And like the CIA, SCN has only gained discredit.

Moratorium on Credit Debate Planted

PA2504161588 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 25 Apr 88 p A-4

[Editorial: "In the Presence of Another Moratorium"]

[Text] The honorable Legislative Assembly has been circulating a draft law whereby a moratorium is declared on loan, financing, credit sales, and rent contract operations subject to the pertinent law. The document sponsored by the commerce and industries commission of the

assembly has been submitted to all interested national sectors for evaluation and discussion. One of its most salient articles declares a moratorium during the months of March, April, and May of the current year, on all operations dealing with loans and financing in national territory, whether or not they are the object of real or personal guarantees, especially those carried out by banks and other entities regulated by the National Banking Commission, by the finance enterprises, insurance companies, cooperatives, mutual funds firms, loans and savings associations, and pawn shops, as well as financing operations conducted by businessmen in their own sales and those conducted through credit cards.

The commission will send an invitation tomorrow to all the persons and leaders interested in expressing their views regarding the draft law. There is no doubt that the draft law offers a response to the national reality at this moment of frightful economic crisis. Thousands of Panamanians are economically hemmed in by the grave crisis besetting us and will not be able to honorably meet their obligations contracted with credit organizations. The document is all-encompassing and seeks a balance. On the one hand it attempts to provide a respite and a certain tranquillity to the debtor. On the other hand it seeks a real and effective recovery of the investments by the banking and financial organizations.

The domestic economy is in a virtual state of total ruin as the result of a large number of layoffs in the private sector where the crisis is most noticeable. If the crisis is solved, it will not be easy for the worker to recover. The process will be slow and confusing. In view of this, a moratorium that judiciously contemplates all aspects of the problem, which attempts to save the debtor and the credit organizations by recovering their investment will greatly benefit Panama's economy.

Also wise is the fact that the proponents of the draft law and the assembly commission have thought of consulting with the diverse sectors linked with this activity to be regulated by law. In that manner the document that will finally go to the plenum for discussion will constitute a faithful reflection of the will and desire of all the sectors connected to the problem. We are sure that amid the grave crisis besetting us, these consultations restore tranquillity and mental peace to all the national sectors that at a given moment may be affected by the national government's measures.

Jobs Lost in Business, Construction Sectors

PA2504173988 Paris AFP in Spanish 0923 GMT 25 Apr 88

[By Roberto Rodriguez]

[Text] Panama City, 25 Apr (AFP)—Private business sources have reported that some 30,000 Panamanian construction, banking, and commerce workers have lost their jobs in the past few months due to the country's serious economic crisis.

Construction Chamber representative Eduardo Ramirez noted that the construction sector has been hit the hardest as investments in the sector have decreased drastically. During the first 6 months of 1988, investments only reached $9 million, but during the first 3 months of 1987, investments amounted to $39 million.

According to Ramirez, only 1,000 construction workers continue to hold jobs in Panama City "because construction is virtually paralyzed." He noted that when banks closed in March, some 125 construction firms that depended on bank credits had to reduce their operations to "almost zero" and that "right now only 5 firms are active."

Banking restrictions have left the construction sector with no way out, and the market has also started to look uncertain for buyers who need mortgages, because these have been suspended.

Meanwhile, Industrial Chamber spokeswoman Flor Ortega reported that 5,000 industrial workers of the 65,000 that comprise this sector have been fired in the past 6 months.

Although industry has not reached construction's extreme unemployment, Ortega noted that some 800 industries in the country "are barely making ends meet."

Private banking sources have estimated that approximately 3,000 to 4,000 employees of the 9,000 that comprise this sector will be fired in mid-June because of the drastic decrease in banking transactions. According to official sources, the banking sector grew 3 percent in 1987 and this "good and solid" growth prevented the sector from receiving a stronger blow during the present social, political, and economic crisis.

Insurance broker Leopoldo Gutierrez has noted that insurance companies handle premiums totaling $100 million, of which $50 million are paid out in claims.

There is a similar trend in the commercial sector, but there are no statistics at this time. According to opposition sources, 30 percent of the economically active population—more than 100,000 Panamanians—are presently unemployed.

Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni has stated that the country's economic situation requires an immediate economic solution along with a political one.

Colon Free Zone Threatened by Situation

PA2304232188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1550 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Report by Lisette Carrasco]

[Excerpts] Colon, Panama, 22 Apr (ACAN-EFE) [date as received]—The Colon Free Zone—the main Latin American duty free zone, located on the Panamanian

Caribbean coast—has experienced an over 50-percent reduction in its operations, which could lead to the dismissal of approximately 10,000 workers and the possible bankruptcy of several businesses.

Francisco Anderson, president of the Association of Colon Free Zone Users (AU), told ACAN-EFE that only a political solution to the political and economic crisis Panama has been experiencing for the last 10 months could prevent "irreparable" and "irreversible" harm to the main source of employment in the Panamanian Atlantic area.

Showing even more pessimism, AU Vice President Ernesto Fernandez said a political solution will not resolve the Colon Free Zone crisis.

Fernandez said the government will have to give a number of concessions to businessmen so they will invest in this international trade center. [passage omitted]

Official reports state that imports during March decreased by 54.9 percent—approximately $87.8 million.

Reexports during March decreased by 17.4 percent compared to reexports in March 1987, which is a loss of $28 million. [passage omitted]

This difficult situation hurts the 11,000 permanent and temporary free zone workers, who work for over 500 businesses in the Colon Free Zone.

Anderson said several businesses have dismissed their employees and others have sent their workers on vacation.

Anderson added that there are workers, however, who, fearing the loss of their jobs, continue working for free.

The government's decision to issue paper currency would be a "final attack" on the Colon Free Zone. The U.S. dollar is the legal currency in Panama. [passage omitted]

Anderson added that all transactions in the Colon Free Zone are handled in U.S. dollars and the very fact that the Panamanian Government is studying the issuance of paper money "scares businessmen."

Not only this possibility, however, scares businessmen, but also the government's turn toward the "left" that has occurred since the crisis worsened. [passage omitted]

In addition, businessmen, who prefered not to identify themselves, told ACAN-EFE that the free zone problem did not start 10 months ago, when the political and economic crisis began, but a long time before that.

They said Panamanian authorities "bribe" businessmen who try to establish operations in the Colon Free Zone and this makes them "fear" for the Colon Free Zone's future. [sentence as received]

Similarly, the existence of a clause in the free zone contract, which allows the Panamanian state (the administrator of the Colon Free Zone) to cancel the contract, arouses distrust among its users. [passage omitted]

Opposition Call To Picket Mexican Embassy

PA2404221088 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1940 GMT 24 Apr 88

[Report by Homero Londono from Panama City]

[Text] We have been asked to announce that at 1200 on 25 April all civilians should go to Libertad Avenue, old 50th Street, to picket the Mexican Embassy, because according to what has been been published, the Mexican Government is going to help General Noriega by supplying crude oil.

According to some experts, the fuel supply here in Panama will last 3 more weeks.

Delvalle Reportedly Using Female Disguise

PA2404161188 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 24 Apr 88 pp 1, 8a

[Unattributed article]

[Text] From one end of the capital city to the other we keep hearing that Arthur H. Davis, U.S. ambassador to Panama, takes a disguised Eric "Tuturo" Delvalle out for rides through various areas of the city. For these rides, Ambassador Davis uses a U.S. Embassy vehicle with license plates CD 103.

A few days ago, Ambassador Davis was seen driving the car and seated beside him was "Tuturo" Delvalle. As usual, Delvalle was dressed like a woman. "Tuturo" was dressed quite colorfully with long fake earrings and a blond wig with long bangs. Delvalle was also wearing fake eyebrows and his lips were painted with "fire engine red" lipstick; his face was heavily covered with powder and rouge. A pink flowing dress was worn by President Ronald Reagan [name as published] who is living in a basement at "Quarry Heights."

People who have seen him, aside from commenting that it is an embarrassing spectacle, pointed out that they have recognized "Tuturo" Delvalle because of his nose. Many persons have said that, at first glance, they thought that the "mysterious woman" was "Mayin Correa."

The people of Aguadulce have protested this humiliating action sponsored by Ambassador Davis. They have said that this unheard of action can only be understood if viewed within the framework of "Tuturo" Delvalle's

desperate attempt to return to the Palace of Herons sponsored by the imperialist government of the California cowboy Ronald Reagan.

Lately, a third person has been seen riding in the back seat of the diplomatic vehicle with license plates CD 103. The person in the back seat is an elderly woman who does not dress very attractively. The woman could pass for a "maid" fulfilling her duties of "chaperon." Some say that the passenger in the back seat is Roderick Esquivel wearing a very colorful turban and who also happens to be a guest of the gringos.

Commentator Stresses L.A. Unity in Opposing U.S.
PA2404215088 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 24 Apr 88

[Commentary: "A New Latin American Awareness" from the "Todo Por La Patria" Program]

[Text] The aggressive strategy against Panama, among other consequences, has brought to the eyes of the world a new awareness, an attitude of independence and rebellion of the Latin American countries, which have firmly united their views on international policy. Since 1986 we have been under the constant fire of disinformation and the economic war. As those pressures mounted, so did the continental repudiation of the intervention against Panama. It became more consolidated. Obstinacy is a sign of stubbornness and immaturity. The United States has gone from one operation to another but cannot subdue our country. After assessing the situation, they have opted for other aggressions.

Meanwhile, Latin America is strengthening its militant solidarity with our people. Last week, following the criticisms by some prominent U.S. leaders, including former Presidents Nixon and Carter, the machinations took another course. Vernon Walters, ambassador to the United Nations, was sent to the Caribbean and South America to rally support for the intolerant and disproportionate U.S. attitude. It is becoming customary for the United States to make mistakes and then have the hemispheric countries pull it out of its incoherent foreign policy quagmire. Until now the campaign against Panama has been the product of an exclusively U.S. conspiracy. Now they are trying to cloak it in continental robes. Vernon Walters, assisted by Elliott Abrams, Robert Pastorini, and a group of 14 ambassadors of the area are intent on mustering the will to carry out the orders of Alfonse D'Amato, Republican senator from New York, to sever Panama's jugular vein.

The results have been catastrophic. The presidents with whom he met unanimously agreed to reject his plan. On the contrary, they protested the compulsive attitude that prevails in the IMF, the World Bank, and the private banks that insist on collecting the foreign debt interest payments. That is a policy that has provoked financial paralysis in all the debtor states. Walters was unable to rally votes for his interventionist theory. What is worse, the statement by Assistant Secretary Elliott Abrams unleashed a unanimous wave of irate protests in Ecuador and Peru. There is only one explanation: The policies that have been effective since the last century are no longer applicable in a world that has taken a stand to defend its sovereignty. Our indigenous, mestizo world that extends south of the Rio Grande is a liberated world. Prominent U.S. intellectuals have clearly established in different books and regional studies that the United States cannot continue to think that the OAS today is the same sounding board it was not too long ago. They cannot think they can count on the complicity of their neighbors, exploited and vilified by their imperialist adventures.

Vernon Walters and Elliott Abrams failed again. They have won the Nobel Prize for failure. Any other official assigned that impossible mission would have failed also. The new Latin American awareness does not step back and is not intimidated by threats or sanctions. More than 300 million men and women have taken their own path of liberation, and no siren songs or feigned concerns about democracy will deter them from their progressive path to achieve total dignity.

DPRK Friendship Body Voices Solidarity
PA2304161288 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 23 Apr 88 p 2

[Text] The Korea-Latin America and Caribbean Region Friendship Association [Instituto Coreano Latinoamericano y del Caribe] has harshly condemned the interventionist machinations of U.S. imperialism in the internal affairs of the Republic of Panama and demands these machinations be suspended immediately.

The statements are included in a letter sent by the Korea-Latin American and Caribbean Friendship Institute to President of the Republic Manuel Solis Palma.

"On this occasion, we send you warm congratulations for upholding the dignity that is so important in these most difficult times of the Panamanian people's struggle to defend the sovereignty of the country. We wish you great success in your noble work," the letter states.

The message to the president states that the Korean people will firmly carry out a movement of solidarity for the withdrawal of the aggressive troops of U.S. imperialism from Panama and in defense of the territory of the country.

The Panamanian Institute of Korea-Latin America and Caribbean Friendship [title as published] cautions that Yankee imperialism resorts to all sorts of intriques and conspiracies, subversive plots and sabotage, and sets up desperate disturbances against the DPRK, while rabidly carrying out "Team Spirit 88" operations and putting into action numerous armed forces of the Yankee troops and of the South Korean puppet army.

WPC Delegation Meets Foreign Minister Abadia

PA2204184188 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1510 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Jairo Posada report from the Foreign Ministry]

[Text] The WPC delegation here to attend an event expressing solidarity with Panama has arrived at the Panamanian Foreign Ministry and is being received by Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias. The main members of the delegation are: Reverend (Kemberd Luther), president of the Reconciliation Movement of the FRG, who is also a high-ranking church leader as well as the general coordinator of antiwar organizations; and Dr (Ignatius McConosis), a political analyst from Ireland, editor of social communication media from television, radio, and newspaper, as well as a professor and journalist;. Marshall Francisco da Costa Gomes, a former president of Portugal and vice president of the WPC as well as a coordinator of pacifist organizations, was at the last minute unable to attend. He is in Venezuela, where he apparently became ill, and was unable to visit Panama today.

At the Foreign Ministry today, we also see Reverend (Hans Caspar Spinoterg), a religious pastor from Switzerland and president of the Movement for Peace and Solidarity with the Peoples of the Third World; as well as Dr (David Wellson), president and coordinator of the pacifist movements of Canada, university professor and president of the Work Council and the new Democratic Party, from Hamilton; and General (Evangelus Kalatakis), a former member of the Greek Parliament and director of the movement for the elimination of military bases in Greece and NATO [words indistinct].

They were received outside the Foreign Ministry by Marcelino Jaen, writer Rogelio Sinan, journalist Moises Torrijos, and Alma Montenegro de Fletcher. Right now, the foreign minister is speaking with them, welcoming them. They are exchanging greetings. There is a large group of journalists taking pictures, as well as representatives from the international news agencies. We will provide details later.

Visits Rio Hato Military Base

PA2404205688 Panama City Television Service in Spanish 1530 GMT 24 Apr 88

[From the "Todo Por La Patria" program]

[Text] In response to an invitation made by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, a WPC delegation visited the General Omar Torrijos Military Base at Rio Hato on 23 April.

The committee, headed by Greek General (Evangelos Kalatakis), retired, was attended by Major Francisco Porras, director of the General Benjamin Ruiz Officers School, with whom they exchanged ideas and impressions of the Panamanian military school.

The distinguished visitors had expressed interest in seeing what had been a U.S. military base, reverted to Panama in a deplorable state, and what is the first decolonization area in Panama.

While visiting, the WPC members received guidance by the intellectual and philosopher Lieutenant Jose de Jesus Martinez. They also toured the officers school's academic department, and other base installations, and were given some literary works, produced on base, which dealt with Gen Noriega and the Defense Forces [FDP].

Gen Kalatakis said that Gen Noriega and his General Staff should feel very proud of having the FDP, which would be the envy of many other countries. He said this with full knowledge of the facts, as a retired general, and as a former NATO member.

Argentina

Alfonsin To Announce Spending Reduction

PY251419 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Excerpts] On 1 May President Raul Alfonsin will announce to Congress a major public spending reduction in order to reduce the public deficit to less than 3 percent of the GNP and to fight inflation, so that the next government may find a more stable economic situation. [passage omitted]

Today we talked with Interior Ministry sources about the speech President Alfonsin will read to Congress on 1 May, at the opening of the period of sessions. According to reports released in the past few hours, the president will make important announcements in that speech. The Interior Ministry sources said the president is very likely to officially announce the postponement of the capital relocation project and of the constitutional amendment, and could also announce public spending reduction measures. In this regard, some projects which will suffer budget cuts are linked with the Yacyreta project, whose treasury allocation will be reduced, although the project will continue to be implemented with foreign credits. The nuclear energy area will also suffer budget cuts. An evaluation will be made as to whether the country can build new plants. The president may also announce that trips abroad will be suspended.

Nelson Lopez del Carril, Interior Ministry secretary for institutional affairs, said the constitutional government will be transferred on 10 December 1989 and not on 12 October, as was published by a newspaper today. Asked about the date of the next elections and the transfer of power, Lopez del Carril replied:

[Begin Lopez del Carril recording] The constitutional regulations state that the electoral college must meet on 10 August. We said the elections should begin late in May or early in July, at the latest 2 July, in order to have time for the preliminary and the final vote counts, the creation of the electoral colleges, and the elections held in areas that had problems because of weather, etc. Therefore, I believe this is nothing new. The elections should be held between 28 May and 2 July. The press report said the elections would be held on 28 May, which coincides with what we said some months ago.

Concerning the other question [words indistinct] the transfer of power, I said and I repeat it now that while the 1853 Constitution remains in force, the constitutional term lasts 6 years. I recall that the civil code sets forth that yearly periods last 1 complete year. I am sure that the constitutional term ends on 10 December 1989. I don't know why they have mentioned the date of 12 October or how it has been extrapolated or calculated. The strict enforcement of the Constitution sets forth that power is to be turned over on 10 December 1989. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Constitutional Amendment Bill Shelved

PY260218 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 25 Apr 88 p 5

[Excerpt] High-ranking Interior Ministry sources have admitted that the executive branch has definitely shelved—as far as the current institutional phase is concerned—a proposed constitutional amendment because of major objections regarding its timeliness, as expressed by the majority of the political parties.

As a result of these disagreements, Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia has instructed his closest aides to concentrate on preparing for the upcoming elections, which will be held on the last Sunday of May 1989, if there are no major objections during consultations scheduled with the political parties. [passage omitted]

Alfonsin Meets Nicaraguan Education Minister

PY230254 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0151 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Apr (TELAM)—Today President Raul Alfonsin held a meeting with Nicaraguan Education Minister Fernando Cardenal, who briefed him on the Central American situation and, according to official sources, said that by the end of next week the Nicaraguan Government and the contras might sign a peace agreement.

Also present at the 1-hour meeting at the Olivos presidential residence were Fernando Guzman Cuadra, the Nicaraguan ambassador to Argentina, and Susana Ruiz Cerutti, the Argentine Foreign Ministry secretary.

At the end of the meeting, Cardenal said there are constant changes in the Central America situation and, from one week to the next, there could be profound changes. He added: It is our policy to constantly inform our friends, particularly the members of the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group.

Cardenal said he had informed Alfonsin about current negotiations that may lead to a peace agreement.

Cardenal said: It is also quite possible, however, that we will never reach an agreement because Colonel Bermudez, the military chief of the counterrevolution, is totally opposed to any kind of peace agreement.

Cardenal added that Bermudez has threatened to kill anyone who signs a peace agreement, and he has imprisoned all the commanders who attended the previous meeting. Moreover, Cardenal denounced the pressures the U.S. Government is exerting on the contra leadership.

Cardenal charged that the U.S. Government is upholding a different plan, which he described as a war plan, and, therefore, we do not know who will win; we do not

know whether the contras are going to be independent and sign the peace agreement or ignore their independence and continue the war.

Cardenal briefed Alfonsin about the situation in Honduras, whose government is receiving aid from U.S. AID, which is then transferred to the contras, thus violating the Esquipulas treaties [as received].

Deputies Comment on Talks With UK Legislators

Senate Committee Chairman

PY251451 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1310 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Apr (NA)—Argentine authorities are waiting for "a nod from the British Government" with respect to the fact that if Argentina declares a cessation of hostilities for the Malvinas war of 1982, the military exclusion zone around the islands might be lifted and the talks over all future aspects of the situation, including the sovereignty issue, might resume.

This statement was made this morning by Adolfo Gass, Senate Foreign Affairs Committee chairman, who said that approximately 15 days ago, during a World Interparliamentary Union meeting held in Guatemala, he (?told) British members of Parliament "on my own behalf that the Argentine Government is willing to declare a cessation of hostilities if this gesture is sufficient to make the United Kingdom sit at the negotiating table."

[Words indistinct] in statements to Radio Continental, Gass referred to a report published by the newspaper AMBITO FINANCIERO to the effect the government is considering the possibility of adopting such a measure after a possible return to the Foreign Ministry of Defense Secretary Raul Alconada Sempe.

According to the report, the declaration of a "cessation" ["jure"] of hostilities would allow the United Kingdom to lift the zone [words indistinct] the sale of "sensitive" U.S.-made military equipment to our country.

Official sources consulted by NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS recalled that since Foreign Minister Caputo offered a declaration of cessation of hostilities on 10 July 1986 "there has been no British answer, and there have not been major changes leading to it, either."

Gass said that "during the last meeting (of the World Interparliamentary Union) held in Guatemala 15 days ago, I talked with the British delegation and, on my own behalf, I said that the Argentine Government is willing to declare a cessation of hostilities if this gesture is sufficient for the United Kingdom to sit at the negotiating table."

Gass said that "on several occasions our foreign minister has said he is willing to make this gesture, provided the other side also shows willingness, because if we declare a cessation of hostilities and they continue to say they will not talk about the sovereignty issue, I see no reason for this gesture."

"We are continually talking with the British. Last week there was a very interesting seminar that was attended by British researchers and political scientists who met with us, and I reiterated our willingness to declare a cessation of hostilities," he said.

[Words indistinct] at another interparliamentary meeting in Managua there was a rapprochement attempt, but the talks did not last even 5 minutes and had to end immediately because there were no points of agreement."

"This time, however, we met for 1 hour and 50 minutes, during which we spoke for 1 hour and 25 minutes and they listened, because they had no grounds to rebut our proposal," he explained.

"This does not mean that the first thing to be debated when we sit at the negotiating table will be the sovereignty issue. That will come later. I do not know what the British Government is thinking about this, but the members of Parliament are really concerned," he maintained.

Gass added that "they want us to visit the United Kingdom again to keep the British public informed of our intentions and to tell them about our relations with the islanders."

[Words indistinct] and friendly that we had with them over a century can be separated because of the desires of 800 islanders, because there are only 800 islanders. The rest are employees of the Falkland Islands Co, which replaces them according to its needs," he explained.

The senator said that "we are studying the gesture, because in November 1986, in a televised conversation during which he was flanked by Federico Storani, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies, and by me, Foreign Minister Caputo said he was willing to declare a cessation of hostilities, although it was not necessary because there had been no declaration of war from the [words indistinct] of the government to consider the possible end of the hostilities, he said that "I met them at the U.S. Embassy and we addressed several issues, but not the Malvinas issue."

Concerning the possibility of making a visit like the one in 1986 by two Radical and two Justicialist lawmakers, "I promised the British that in my capacity as Foreign Affairs Committee chairman I would make the necessary contacts, and that the Chamber of Deputies would see whether a new visit would be useful."

"I recall that during that visit we were strongly criticized and viewed as betraying Argentina by talking with the British over the Malvinas," Senator Gass concluded.

Justicialist Deputy

PY251335 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Apr 88 p 6

[Text] Deputy Federico Ramon Puerta (Justicialist Party [PJ] representative for Misiones Province) has disclosed that during the recent private meeting with British legislators in Guatemala, they agreed on the need to continue maintaining a dialogue at a parliamentary level that will allow a resolution of the conflict over the Malvinas Islands.

Puerta made this statement upon arriving in Buenos Aires, after participating in the meeting in Guatemala attended by more than 800 representatives of various parliaments.

Regarding the talks, the Justicialist legislator said British legislators Michael Marshall and the Viscount Montgomery (Conservatives) and George Foulkes and Donald Anderson (Labor) "sought a rapprochement, insisted on talking, and accepted our demand that recognition of Argentine sovereignty over the archipelago be included, because they are convinced that dialogue is the only way for the Malvinas to be ours again."

Moreover, Puerta said that "we questioned the recent British military maneuvers in the South Atlantic, and they told us they had to be carried out for budgetary reasons, because their objective was to ascertain the time it took to reach the islands, since they hope to reduce the military apparatus and, thus, considerably reduce the military budget."

The Misiones Province deputy concluded by pointing out that coinciding points of view were reached during this meeting, but he admitted that, "unfortunately, we cannot say the same about Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who is not willing to start a dialogue."

Air Force Retirements, Appointments Expected

PY242356 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1400 GMT 24 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 24 Apr (NA)—The retirement of brigadiers Knut Andreasen, Enrique Carbo Bernard, and Alejandro Pedro Segurado, which reportedly will be officially announced tomorrow, would be the initial phase of a thorough streamlining of the Air Force leadership, a streamlining that would culminate with the voluntary retirement of Air Force Chief of Staff Brigadier General Ernesto Crespo within a fairly short period of time, reliable official sources have said.

Andreasen held the post of materiel commander, Carbo Bernard the post of Air Force intelligence chief, and Segurado the post of Air Force finance director general.

Following a so-called "small-scale crisis," the candidates most likely to succeed Andreasen, Carbo Bernard, and Segurado are Brigadier [Jorge Ricardo] Ruiz, the current air regions commander, who would replace Andreasen as materiel commander; Colonel Oviedo, who would take over as finance director; and Colonel Mario Laporta, an intelligence expert, who would be appointed as Air Force intelligence chief.

The post of air regions commander, which would be vacated by Brigadier Ruiz, would be occupied by Brigadier [Juan Claudio] Correa Cuenca [the current deputy chief of the general staff].

According to the sources, Andreasen, Carbo Bernard, and Segurado "voluntarily" asked for their retirement last weekend. Their request has been approved and their retirement will be officially announced tomorrow in an internal Air Force memorandum.

Concerning the reasons for the retirement request of the three brigadiers, the sources confirmed it involved a "streamlining" within the Air Force. However, other circles claim that the brigadiers who asked for retirement disagreed with the way Brigadier Crespo is conducting the Air Force.

It was mentioned, for example, that the brigadiers recently opposed several resolutions and made a number of proposal contrary to Crespo's policy.

Concerning the internal Air Force streamlining, the sources said there is a possibility that Brigadier Crespo will voluntarily leave his post within a "fairly brief" period of time.

In this regard, other sources, who are also reliable, believe that Crespo's replacement will coincide with the beginning of a new congressional period of sessions [words indistinct] in both cases, the sources agreed that Crespo's retirement will be voluntary and will not be prompted by an internal crisis [words indistinct] Segurado.

The rest of the Air Force leadership fully agrees with the conduct of the current Air Force chief of staff. [passage omitted]

Changes Confirmed

PY260251 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0042 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Apr (NA)—Tonight the Air Force General Staff [EMGFA] confirmed that Brigadier Jorge Ricardo Ruiz and Commodores Mario Alfredo Laporta and Tito German Oviedo will replace Brigadiers Knut Erik Andreasen, Enrique Carbo Bernard, and Alejandro Segurado, as Materiel commander, EMGFA second chief, and Air Force director general for finance, respectively.

In an official communique, the Air Force pointed out that Brigadier Juan Correa Cuenca was named to take the position of commander of the air regions, Brigadier Hector Ricardo Gilovert to be the third chief of the General Staff, and Colonel Eduardo Riccardini to continue serving on the Armed Forces Joint General Staff.

The Air Force communique states:

"The Air Force General Staff reports that, in view of the requests of Brigadiers Enrique Martiniano Carbo Bernardo (EMGFA second chief), Knut Erik Andreasen (materiel commander), and Alejandro Pedro Juan de Dios Segurado's (finance director general) to be placed on the retirement list, the following officers were appointed to replace them in their respective positions: Brigadier Jorge Ricardo Ruiz, Commodore Mario Alfredo Laporta, and Commodore Tito German Oviedo.

"We also take this opportunity to inform the public that Brigadier Juan Manuel Marcial Correa Cuenca has been appointed commander of the air regions, Brigadier Hector Ricardo Gilovert EMGFA third chief, and Commodre Jorge Ricardo Riccardini to continue serving on the Armed Forces Joint General Staff."

Officials, Peronists on U.S. Military Aid

PY251651 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Apr 88 First Section p 3

[Excerpts] Today official and Peronist sources told REUTER that an eventual military reequipping of Argentina will not instigate a recovery of the Malvinas Islands via military methods.

The sources that were consulted stated that this week was considered to be critical for a quick renewal of Argentine-U.S. military links. The United States has been this country's main supplier of war materiel for the past few decades. [passage omitted]

The sources also told REUTER that the United Stated fears resuming the flow of war materiel to Argentina in view of the possibility that the South American country will try to recover the Malvinas.

Julio Patino Meyer, adviser on military affairs to the National Justicialist Board, told REUTER that "we told Deputy Assistant Secretary Pastorino that the United States must do away with its limiting ideas regarding the provision of war materiel to Argentina because it fears eventual actions in the Malvinas.

"No one should believe that. It is an argument that has no real basis, but they are revising that position," Patino said.

Peronist Deputy Miguel Toma, who is a member of the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee, told REUTER that Argentina is waiting for a "political gesture" from the United States regarding the resumption of the sale of weapons, which are necessary "for upgrading the Armed Forces."

Official sources have also stated that the visit of General Dante Caridi, the Argentine Army chief of staff, to the United States could end with some concrete results regarding the resumption of military assistance to Argentina.

These "concrete results" include an $18-million line of credit that will be used in the repair of 200 armored vehicles, troop transports, and 8 bell helicopters.

In this respect, the sources indicated that the Argentine option is not one of "equipping or not equipping," but one of getting equipment in the United States or resorting to third country operations. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Nobrega on Banker Talks, State Firms, Policies

PY251913 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 25 Apr 88 p 40

["Text" of interview with Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega to O GLOBO reporters Silvia Farias, Ribamar de Oliveira, and Jose Negreiros in Brasilia—date not given]

[Text] O GLOBO: What was the reaction of the foreign creditors and authorities with whom you have just visited to measures recently adopted to cut the public deficit?

Nobrega: I did not go there to discuss those measures. I went to participate in meetings of the IMF and World Bank interim committees. But such an opportunity to talk things over could not be wasted. I felt a very positive reaction all around. They all recognized that the difficulties are great, but the Brazilian Government has had the courage to adopt these indispensable measures.

O GLOBO: What are the details of the program?

Nobrega: It should center on four points. First, the public deficit must be brought down to a level that is bearable for the economy, about 4 percent of the GDP. Second, Brazilian relations with the international financial community must be normalized through a satisfactory agreement with the creditor banks, with support from the IMF. Third, mechanisms must be found to remove the government from areas of the economy that can be taken over by private initiative and concentrate the government's actions on protecting the less favored classes through increase investments in health service, assistance to children, education, and sanitation. The fourth point referes to modernization of the economy. The great challenge faced by Brazilian society during the remaining years of this century is reviewing the role of the state. This role was at one time important to make private investment viable, to administer incentives, and

to provide the infrastructure necessary for development. The results can be seen: Brazil now has the best industrial base in the Third World, and it is quite competitive in the agricultural sector. The time has come to let this process stand on its own feet.

O GLOBO: Is state bureaucracy prepared for that change?

Nobrega: The bureaucracy that was formed to administer those programs has grown to a point that it now hinders the function of the state. The bureaucracy in Brazil has ended up by creating its own objectives. There is no point in condemning the state-run enterprises or the powerful organizations of the central government. The aim should be to put all this in its proper terms, and to destroy the myths.

O GLOBO: For instance, Mr Minister?

Nobrega: For instance, we must destroy the myth of the profitable state-run enterprise. It will be hard to convince people that this is a myth. But the fact is that it is difficult to measure the efficiency of an enterprise that operates as a monopoly, with prices determined by costs, not by the marketplace.

O GLOBO: But, to begin with, the idea of corporativism is strongly entrenched in those who work for state enterprises. And this situation has been worsened by the URP [Price Reference Unit] freeze, right?

Nobrega: It can be seen that those who work for those state enterprises are conducting some kind of lobby to pursue their own objectives. In other words, in their opinion, the state enterprises must decide their future, not society. I once worked for a state enterprise, and so I know that this is the sentiment. There is something that goes beyond the defense of a powerful state sector behind that sentiment. It is the desire to maintain their position in society.

O GLOBO: There is an impression that those who work for state enterprises make less money than those working for private enterprises. Is this impression wrong?

Nobrega: It would be interesting to comment on this just a little. In both the central and the decentralized administrations there are some dangerous distortions: in the first place, the persistent effort to obtain direct and indirect salary advantages that are beyond the capabilities of the economy; and in the second place, many of those who work for state enterprises are making more money than those working for the private sector. The contention that the state enterprise worker must be paid well to be retained is a half-truth. I doubt that state enterprises workers with 20-50 years of service will quit their jobs just because they are making less money.

O GLOBO: Don't you believe that the URP freeze will become an incentive to quit?

Nobrega: I don't believe so. There will be some cases, of course, but quitting a job with a state-run enterprise in Brazil just because your salary is not being readjusted by the URP for 2 months... I doubt it. That argument is used just to oppose the freeze.

O GLOBO: The state enterprises demand equal treatment with the private sector. What is the difficulty?

Nobrega: Let's go back to the myth of the state enterprise efficiency. Among experts in public finance, there are some who defend the idea that rates and public prices in sectors operated as monopolies should be approved by Congress. That is because from the financial standpoint, those rates and public prices are quite similar to indirect taxes. Now, to the extent that salary increases are granted in state enterprises operating as monopolies, the consumers of goods and services produced by those enterprises are the ones who pay for those increases.

O GLOBO: How will the bureaucracy react to that idea? Is it possible to count on its support?

Nobrega: The Brazilian bureaucracy does not yet act as the bureaucracy in other industrialized countries, where the bureaucrat leaves behind his ideological preferences as soon as he walks into his office. In that office, he is at the state's service. He exercises his ideological preferences through the vote, as any other citizen. In Brazil, the finance minister or the planning minister anounces a measure, and the next day any low-ranking bureaucrat can issue a note to the press denouncing the measure. Just as easily, some bureaucrats make public studies, which are sometimes correct, but from another angle, as though they have nothing to do with the government. This creates distorsion: Above the country's objectives are the objectives of the bureaucrat.

O GLOBO: Aren't you inviting another serious quarrel by your decision to cut the wheat subsidy all at once?

Nobrega: The wheat subsidy was cut to speed up the reduction of the public deficit. It shows that the measures the government is determined to adopt are not restricted to salaries.

O GLOBO: Well, the expectation is that inflation will be reduced by those measures. The sacrifice is accepted on that expectation, but an inflation rate of 20 percent in April and higher in May is already being mentioned. Is this so because measures so far adopted are not sufficient to curb inflation?

Nobrega: There are no miracles in the case of inflation. In the situation in which the Brazilian economy finds itself, any measure will take some time to bring about results. This raises political difficulties for the implementation of any measure. Everyone sets his sight on the short term. The imbalance is so large that we must be content with avoiding hyperinflation as a first step.

O GLOBO: Negative expectations marked last week in the financial market, including fear of a moratorium on the domestic public debt. What will the government do?

Nobrega: We are worried about that, particularly about the fear on the part of some people, and even some authorities, who favor such an internal moratorium. That position is based on a bad perception of reality, that the problem has nothing to do with salaries or expenditures by state-run enterprises, but with the interest on the public debt. Of course, the interest on the public debt exerts an additional pressure. But from here to thinking that the government can continue to expend as it is doing and to get indebted as it is doing, and then resolve the problem by declaring an internal moratorium—there is a big gap, verging on irresponsibility. The people who talk that way have a wrong notion of how the public debt functions.

O GLOBO: Does that mean that this kind of idea is totally discarded?

Nobrega: We looked into that matter and verified that 81 percent of resources invested in the overnight market comes from nonfinancial enterprises and individuals. That is, contrary to what is feared, a moratorium on the public debt will not affect the banks, because they only invest 19 percent in the overnight market. But how can you declare a moratorium without affecting other financial assets that are pegged to the OTN [National Treasury Orders] variations, such as the Savings Bank books and the workers' capital deposited in the PIS/PASEP [Social Integration Program-Civil Servant Welfare Fund] and the FGTS [Service Time Surety Fund]? It would be a measure contrary to the workers' interest.

O GLOBO: The government will not declare an internal moratorium. Is this definite?

Nobrega: No, because that would be madness on a national scale.

Aeronautics Minister Says No Threat of Coup

PY251530 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Apr 88 p 2

[Text] After stressing that there is no threat of a military coup, Aeronautics Minister Octavio Julio Moreira Lima asserted yesterday that the full democracy and freedom the country is currently enjoying is not properly understood by the radical groups.

Moreira Lima said there is no threat of a white, black, blue, or scarlet coup. [sentence as published] The climate within the Air Force is one of discipline. I have been commander of this force of 60,000 men for the past 3 years, and so far cases of insubordination have been very rare, Moreira Lima said. Democracy means respect for law, order, and institutions. Despite the economic difficulties, the country currently enjoys full democracy, which is not properly understood by the radicals, he added.

The minister also said the decision to freeze the URP (Price Reference Unit) was taken by the president of the Republic and will be complied with by the Air Force out of discipline.

Sarney Authorizes Helicopter Purchase

PY230411 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0002 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Brasilia, 22 Apr (EFE)—Today President Jose Sarney authorized credit operations necessary to purchase 52 military helicopters at a cost of $246 million, the ESTADO press agency reported.

These helicopters will be bought from the Brazilian-French consortium Helibras-Aerospatiale-Engesa, and delivery will begin in March 1989.

Amazonas State Governor Leaves PMDB for PDC

PY231519 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Amazonas State Governor Amazonino Mendes has left the PMDB and joined the PDC [Christian Democratic Party]. Several deputies, councilmen, and secretaries of state followed Mendes' example, and now the PDC has the greatest number of congressmen in Amazonas State. Amazonino Mendes is the first governor to leave the PMDB since the 1986 elections.

Chile

Pinochet Comments on Plebiscite Opposition

PY230045 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Tonight in Vina del Mar, President Pinochet reiterated that the yes votes will win the plebiscite because there are millions of Chileans who want to preserve the accomplishments of his government.

The chief of state was the last speaker at the large assembly of Vina del Mar women who demonstrated their support. The president began his speech by thanking the women for this demonstration of support, saying that such support is a stimulus to continue to struggle for Chile. He then recalled that it was the women who first realized that Marxism during the previous regime was a threat and who began to express concern over the future of their children and the country.

Later, he referred to the accomplishments made in recent years, stressing the importance of the 1980 Constitution, which was approved by the majority of the people. Pinochet then said that those who accuse him of being a dictator refuse to understand that this dictator

and the Junta members, rather than using their personal power, opted for the power of the Constitution. He then asked if there is any dictator in the world who has done this, with all the power in his hands.

Pinochet explained the significance of the plebiscite as a mechanism under the Constitution. The opposition, Pinochet said, has distorted the spirit of this mechanism to engage in a meaningless struggle.

[Begin Pinochet recording] The campaign that has been launched against the plebiscite is gigantic. Tell me, can you conceive of how men can go abroad and tell lies, as a communist did the other day in Spain? If he is listening, he will know I am referring to him. He calls himself a socialist, but in fact he is a communist. These gentlemen go abroad and lie, talking about poverty, tyranny, or dictatorship. They lie about all that we have done because they only saw this dictatorship in the movies. However, why do they do this? They do this to obtain money. Thus they turn their campaign into a business, deceiving the poor foreigners, both in Europe and the north.

We do not accept foreign money. And those men who go abroad to sell out their fatherland have a name: they are traitors to the fatherland. [shouts, applause].

Although they try to deceive people, people know they are traitors. People know them. When they return, they return silently, just as they left, silently. [shouts, applause].

The people know that part of the money goes into their own pockets, and part is used to buy the allegiance of some people. Even then, I am sure they cannot buy the allegiance they try to buy. They cannot buy Chileans, because Chileans are not for sale now. [shouts, applause]. They take the money, but they do not sell themselves. [end recording]

Pinochet said that presidential campaigns are costly and that a company has offered its services for $40 million. My reply, Pinochet added, was with that money he could build housing for 5,000 families.

Then he called on the audience to step up efforts to continue the struggle against those who lie and offend the fatherland. These efforts, Pinochet said, will lead to an overwhelming victory in the upcoming plebiscite.

[Begin Pinochet recording] We have to work like an engine, and so, when the time comes to vote, ladies, the decision will be yours. [crowd shouts: "yes"; applause] Why will this decision be yours? It will be yours because if you all vote, then we will receive more votes. [shouts] We are millions. [shouts, applause] And we are millions rallying behind the national flag. Long live Chile. [applause] [end recording]

National Party Head Sees Pinochet as Candidate

PY252027 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] National Party [PN] President Patricio Phillips has said that he clearly understands that the Armed Forces commanders and Carabineros director general will proclaim President Pinochet as their candidate.

This is how he reacted to General Pinochet's speech in Vina del Mar, in which he practically proclaimed his candidacy.

[Begin Phillips recording] We politicians must understand the following: the candidate the Armed Forces commanders will proclaim is President Pinochet.

However, I hope President Pinochet will understand our situation, and that he will seek an agreement with the civilians. [end recording]

This is what the country expects from him, as the PN has pointed out. The polls support my point of view, Phillips said, and if the people's will is not respected the country will move toward a confrontation.

Phillips said that history has demonstrated that his party was right when it refused to join the National Renewal [RN] party. We adopted a firm position on this issue, despite the criticism against us, he said.

Phillips appealed to the PN members and friends not to be deceived by the siren song, meaning the RN crisis.

[Begin Phillips recording] Let us not be deceived by the siren song. The PN has its own political position. The RN which is undergoing a crisis, and which will miss all the signatures of the UDI [Independent Democratic Union] members, will want to try to recruit members from the PN.

I am thus alerting all PN members from Arica to Magallanes not to be deceived by anything the RN might do and to firmly support the PN, which has maintained a firm position regarding the future of Chile. [end recording]

The RN lacks the signatures of the UDI members. Therefore, no one should be deceived by anything the RN might do, Phillips said.

Committee Created To Support Junta Candidate

PY221925 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Excerpt] The Labor Civic Committee [Comite Civico Laboral], headed by former Bank Clerks Association leader Carlos Ortega Rouco, was created to support the plebiscite candidate proposed by the Armed Forces commanders in chief and the Carabineros director general.

Ortega said that if the no vote wins in the plebiscite all achievements made lately will be lost, and the country will return to the anarchy that existed in Chile until 11 September 1973.

Ortega explained why the recently created committee supports the yes vote:

[Begin Ortega recording] We support the yes vote because, despite the problems being faced by the labor sector—which have existed, exist, and will continue to exist not only in Chile but in all other countries of the world—we believe that the socioeconomic system created for the workers in Chile will allow them to have a better standard of living, if [words indistinct] means to resolve situations demagogically. [end recording]

Ortega pointed out that the objective of the committee recently created is to convince the workers, and citizens in general, that it is necessary to actively participate in the political decision to be made soon.

We must warn the people of the serious risks our country will run if superficiality wins and we fall back, this time irreversibly, under a regime that aims to destroy democracy and end up by losing our national sovereignty, Ortega said. [passage omitted]

Aylwin: State Apparatus Promoting Yes Vote

PY220346 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] Temuco—During a news conference at 1700 today, Christian Democratic Party President Patricio Aylwin said that the entire state apparatus is being used to promote the yes vote in the plebiscite and that some Army officers are participating in this campaign in violation of their professional duties.

Aylwin said that the opposition is facing the campaign with a great handicap because the government has a monopoly on national television; abuses power over the rest of the media; airs paid advertisements with funds of uncertain origin, even though one of Pinochet's daughters signs for such funds in her capacity as president of a cultural association; and, finally, because the intendants manage his campaign in the regions.

Aylwin said that all this constitutes a fraud and that the people will eventually see the truth. He said: Even though the 14 parties working for the no vote face all kinds of difficulties, we are sure to win and defeat the fraud.

Ricardo Hormazabal added that we are going to win despite the indictment of 27 journalists, death threats to bishops and political leaders, and persecution by the courts of labor leaders.

Patricio Aylwin said that when the government says democracy in Chile will begin the day the permanent provisions of the 1980 Constitution go into effect, it is deceiving the people, because the regime that established these provisions is not democratic. This regime is a presidential dictatorship under the tutelage of the Army, Aylwin concluded.

Patricio Aylwin, Ricardo Hormazabal, Eduardo Frei, and Jorge Lavanderos arrived in the ninth region at noon today. They will remain in the region 4 days. At 2000 tonight they will participate in a public ceremony at Bulnes Auditorium.

Government To Continue Economic Policy

PY251542 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0308 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Santiago, 24 Mar (EFE)—The Chilean military regime headed by General Augusto Pinochet is willing to continue a policy based on a social market economy [economia social de mercado] if it wins the plebiscite and remains in power for the 1989-97 period.

This information is contained in an extensive document published in today's issue of the newspaper EL MERCURIO. This document is Interior Minister Sergio Fernandez' answer to a questionnaire submitted to him by the Association of Exporters of Manufactured Goods. [passage omitted]

The document containing the economic policy that will be implemented by the current government during the next presidential period indicates, among other things, that the doors will remain open to foreign investment and that the policy of privatization and the capitalization of the foreign debt of national enterprises will continue.

The document highlights the fact that the Chilean experience demonstrates that the strengthening of private initiative and the entry of the Chilean economy into the world economy are the best ways to obtain progress and overcome the recessions that harm the international economy from time to time.

Regarding the foreign debt, the document indicates that Chile is the Latin American country that has been most successful in this sector.

The government's policy in this respect has mainly been based on the fact that commitments must be complied with, and it points out that "it will do so in an intelligent and supportable way, without demagogy or false illusions."

According to the Central Bank's most recent data, at the end of February 1988 the Chilean foreign debt amounted to $18.938 billion, a reduction of $3.6377 billion since 1985, when Chile began to recover its foreign debt notes.

Opposition Unhappy With Episcopal Communique

PY252143 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Political observers have remarked that opposition radical [rupturistas] sectors have received with notable unhappiness a communique issued by the Episcopal Conference following a 3-day meeting in which all Chilean bishops participated.

Moreover, the political observers said that the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has received the bishop's communique with extreme bitterness because the PDC did not foresee that the bishops would crush its machinations with just one blow.

According to the political observers, the bishops addressed three key issues regarding the upcoming plebiscite. The bishops' conclusions are being considered as highly positive. First, they recognize that the conditions to hold a clean and honest plebiscite have been established; second, they recognize that the requirements for the plebiscite are the same as the ones established in the 1980 Constitution and its complementary laws, and that nothing foreign to an electoral process has been added; and third, they recognize that the Armed Forces are guaranteeing all sectors that the plebiscite will be held as established in the Constitution, that is, in a clean and honest way.

Concerning the conditions established by the bishops to consider the plebiscite valid, such as a secret, free, and enlightened vote with the participation of a representative number of voters, the political observers said that the government is acting correctly.

By 31 March, more than 5 million voters had registered in the electoral registry. According to current estimates, more than 6.5 million voters—more than 50 percent of the current Chilean population—will have registered by July 1988.

Another blow received by the PDC involved the issue of press freedom on the day of the plebiscite. It has been made clear that on the day of the plebiscite there will be no compulsory domestic service network.

Anticipating such a possibility, a PDC leader said that a compulsory domestic service network on the day of the plebiscite would indicate a fraud.

However, Telecommunications Under Secretary Colonel Gustavo Arenas flatly denied this possibility, expressing to the Association of Chilean Broadcasters that there will be no compulsory domestic service network and that if there is a domestic service network, it will be voluntary.

Socialist Leader Outlines Transition Plan

PY260035 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0757 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Santiago, 25 Apr (EFE)—Ricardo Nunez, secretary general of the Chilean Socialist Party, one of the main forces of the democratic opposition in this country, is convinced that the "no" vote will win in the forthcoming plebiscite on the presidential succession.

However, a victory of the "no" vote by the opposition will by no means imply that there will not be a "night of the swords," but rather a night of happiness and of hope for all Chileans.

Because, he added, "what we have proposed is a return to democracy in an orderly and peaceful manner," and we want to work with the Armed Forces so that this return to democracy will take place without further pain, trauma, or sacrifice.

The top leader of the moderate Socialist Party, which a few days ago celebrated its 55th anniversary, made these remarks in an interview with the newspaper LA TERCERA.

Nunez stated that Chileans "can expect from the Socialists absolute determination to face democratic reconstruction, with the hope that we will be able to live together in a civilized society in which human rights will be respected and where we will have progress, social equality, and justice for all."

Nunez admitted that in the past "we have engaged in revolutionary dogmatism and childishness," and "we have not understood the democratic and pluralist message of our colleague Salvador Allende," whose government was overthrown in 1973 by a coup d'etat that brought to power the current regime headed by General Augusto Pinochet. Now, he added, we are experiencing a dynamic process to recover the basic institutions of Chilean socialism and the country's autonomy and free thinking, without dogmatism, rejecting any hegemonic attack on our thinking and action, enriching our thoughts with new changes in Chilean society.

Referring to the government program prepared by the Socialist Party as an alternative to what will come after the military regime, Nunez said that it is not true that such a proposal will be just a repetition of proposals of the past.

Our proposal, he explained, is based on the current situation in Chile, on the problems affecting the country, such as the foreign debt, the increasingly unfair distribution of income, the extreme poverty, the lack of housing facilities, difficulties in health and education sectors, etc.

We also believe the Chilean economy has experienced considerable changes, some of which are obviously positive, such as the generation of an important export capacity in the agricultural sector, and development in other productive sectors.

But we also believe, he added, that all these achievements have been obtained with a very high social cost, the impoverishment of a large sector of workers.

Thus, according to Nunez, both the many neglected sectors of the country and the most advanced Chilean business sectors "will feel represented in our development plan, in which we will give them guarantees of growth and freedom."

Christian Democratic Party Legally Recognized

PY251843 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 25 Apr 88

[All figures as heard]

[Text] The National Electoral Service has legally recognized the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] in the 13 regions of the country, according to today's issue of the OFFICIAL GAZETTE. This means that the PDC has been officially registered as a political party.

The request for legal recognition was first made on 9 March 1988 by PDC President Patricio Aylwin and PDC Secretary General Gutemberg Martinez.

The party lists the following number of members by regions: First Region, Tarapaca, 925 citizens; Second Region, Antofagasta, 1,221; Third Region, Atacama, 667; Fourth Region, Coquimbo, 1,359; Fifth Region, Valparaiso, 5,812; Sixth Region, Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins, 2,496; Seventh Region, Maule, 2,757; Eighth Region, Bio Bio, 4,873; Ninth Region, Araucania, 2,622; Tenth Region, De los Lagos, 3,668; Eleventh Region, Aisen, 374; Twelfth Region, Magallanes, 518; Metropolitan Region, 17,219.

The total number of citizens who have signed for the PDC in the country is 44,531.

The National Electoral Service resolution legally recognizing the PDC states that the party has thus complied with the minimum number of party members required by Law No 18,603. The party has also complied with the term established by Article No 11 of the Political Parties Law.

The resolution published in the OFFICIAL GAZETTE today is signed by Juan Ignacio Garcia Rodriguez, director of the National Electoral Service.

'Extremist' Linked to Arms Cache Case Detained

PY222051 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Antofagasta Investigative Police have detained an extremist who played a very important role in the Carrizal Bajo arms contraband case.

In a few hours the extremist will be taken to Santiago and placed at the disposal of the office of the military prosecutor.

This information was provided by Roman Silva Diaz, the deputy chief of the metropolitan region Investigative Police, who added that in August 1986 Investigative Police personnel discovered a real arsenal in the Carrizal Bajo area and that those arms were to be distributed in the country to promote disorder and guerrilla warfare in accordance with an extremist plot.

Silva Diaz said the extremist is Mario Enrique Vera Vargas, who was involved in the Carrizal Bajo arms contraband case.

[Begin Silva Diaz recording] A few hours ago, the Antofagasta Investigative Police detained another person who was involved in the Carrizal Bajo contraband case.

This man's name is Mario Enrique Vera Varas. I repeat, Mario Enrique Vera Varas.

This detainee will be placed at the disposal of the office of the military prosecutor who is investigating this case. [end recording]

Silva Diaz added that the Antofagasta Investigative Police had to work hard for several weeks in order to locate and arrest the extremist.

Asked the extremist's age and place of detention, Silva Diaz said only that this extremist played an important, a very important, role in the arms contraband case.

Carabinero Murder Guns Found; 1 Arrested

PY221431 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Investigative police have detained a man who possessed three firearms used in the killing of Carabinero Osvaldo Ramirez Sanchez, perpetrated at the intersection of 5 de Abril and Nicasio Retamal Streets.

The detainee has been identified as Humberto Enrique Monros, 30, who was acting suspiciously in the Estacion Central district.

After his arrest, Monros was interrogated and stated that he had three weapons of different calibers in his house, weapons that he received from two men. Those two men told him the weapons were used in the killing of a carabinero, who happened to be Ramirez Sanchez.

Police said the detainee possessed a 38-caliber revolver, Amadeo Rossi brand; a 22-caliber revolver, Italo brand; and a 1.22-caliber revolver, no brand.

Humberto Enrique Monros has been placed at the disposal of the office of the second district military prosecutor, charged with violating the law on control of arms and explosives.

The criminals who gave the weapons to the detainee are at large, although they have been positively identified.

Colombia

Foreign Minister on Relations With Cuba

PA2104225388 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Apr 88 pp 1A, 8A

[Interview with Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes by Jose Hernandez and Dario Restrepo at the Foreign Ministry in Bogota; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] Colombia has recently shown gestures of good faith with Cuba. Is the president interested in ending his 4-year term in office by establishing relations with Cuba?

[Londono] No. Not at all. The government does not plan in the near future to establish relations with Cuba.

[Reporter] Then how do you explain those gestures of good faith?

[Londono] They are positions in which we are upholding a principle. They are not gestures of good faith.

[Reporter] Does that mean that Cuba's admission to the OAS is a principle upheld by Colombian foreign policy?

[Londono] A principle is one thing and an opinion on a certain action is another. We support Cuba's admission to the OAS. However, we do not know if Cuba is interested in joining. For the OAS to become a forum in which conflicts and problems are discussed, it is necessary for Cuba—which is a country that has a very important influence in Latin America—to be a member of the organization.

[Reporter] Is it your conclusion that it is easier to resolve conflicts, such as the one in Central America, if Cuba is a member of the OAS than if it is not?

[Londono] Not necessarily. It is evident that the OAS, as you all know, has not played an influential role in the resolution of the Central American conflict. There have been a series of solutions outside the OAS: by the Contadora Group, the Support Group, and, subsequently, by the Esquipulas II agreements.

It would be an ideal thing if that series of conflicts could be discussed and resolved within the OAS and not in special forums created for specific purposes. In addition, Cuba is not the only country that is not a member of the OAS. Guyana, Belize, and Canada are not members, either, and their participation would be very important.

[Reporter] There is a theory that explains Colombia's gestures toward Cuba: a swap. We would support [Cuba] if you, Fidel Castro, suspend your support or influence over certain Colombian guerrillas.

[Londono] That is not true.

[Reporter] Then what is the principle defended by Colombia in Geneva when it supported Cuba?

[Londono] We simply do not want the Human Rights Commission to become politicized and to concentrate on an East-West confrontation, because then it would completely lose its reason for existing. A country cannot be condemned a priori, which would be the case if an inspection or an analysis of the human rights situation has not taken place.

[Reporter] But there are Amnesty International reports that are not very favorable for the Cuban Government.

[Londono] Amnesty International and many international organizations have released reports on many countries. A country should not be condemned just because an international organization, a country, or a group of countries decide to speak against it. The principle is that a country cannot be condemned if it is not investigated or listened to first.

[Reporter] The problem is that the Cuban Government wanted to be listened to on its own terms.

[Londono] That is not true. Look at the resolution. You are wrong. Look at the proposal introduced by the United States. It talked about a different thing.

[Reporter] Then there was a confrontation with the United States?

[Londono] It was not a direct confrontation with the United States. It was a position in which principles were upheld, which does not mean a confrontation with the United States or an alliance with Cuba. Now if a country dislikes [this position], we are very sorry, but positions are not adopted to please anyone. We are acting according to our own convictions and principles and not in view of what another country or group of countries believe should be done.

[Reporter] Colombian governments have almost always said that Cuba is intervening in our internal affairs by supporting certain guerrilla groups. Have you confirmed this while in office?

[Londono] The Colombian Government has no information that the Cuban Government is supporting Colombian subversive groups.

[Reporter] That is news!

[Londono] I repeat: The government does not have any information that the Cuban Government is supporting Colombian subversive groups. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Denies Rights Abuse Charges

PA2004122388 Paris AFP in Spanish 0330 GMT 20 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Bogota, 19 Apr (AFP)— This evening Colombian Defense Minister General Rafael Samudio once again rejected the charges made by Amnesty International. The organization has stated that Colombia is currently experiencing a time of military repression and systematic violation of human rights.

During an interview granted to "24 Hours," a televised newscast, Gen Samudio said that the government should protest before the international organization, because the charges are "not specific and unacceptable to the Colombian Armed Forces."

"Even though an organization like Amnesty International has very lofty and noble purposes, we cannot allow them to say that a country and its Armed Forces are systematically violating human rights," Gen Samudio stressed.

However, Gen Samudio later admitted: "Violence is evident. There are dead people. There are killings going on. No one can ignore this. It is regrettable that this is happening. But holding the government or the armed institutions responsible is something else, and we cannot allow this. It is not true. They cannot prove it."

The high-ranking officer added that "Colombian judges are responsible for determining who is guilty when a law or rule is broken." [passage omitted]

After repeatedly rejecting the charges made by Amnesty International, Gen Samudio said that the Armed Forces can prove that these charges are being promoted by a foreign organization that is bent of harming the Colombian Armed Forces.

Drug 'Kingpin' Lozano Arrested Near Florencia

PA2304030388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1445 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Excerpts] Fabio Lozano, considered by authorities as one of southern Colombia's principal drug kingpins, was arrested by detectives who found him with 23 kg of cocaine and several weapons, it was reported in Bogota today.

Lozano, 34, was arrested Sunday on a farm he owns near Florencia, capital of Caqueta Department in the southern part of the country, by Administrative Department of Security (DAS) agents, who turned him over to the courts.

It was also reported that the DAS, in a similar operation, arrested six members of a band of paid killers in Florencia. They were found with weapons that were to have been used in a war between rival drug-trafficking bands. [passage omitted]

It was learned that the alleged mercenaries arrested in Florencia arrived a few days ago from Medellin, the second largest city of Colombia, which is the home of the drug "cartel." They apparently were to kill several people to "settle accounts" among drug traffickers.

The mercenaries were found with submachineguns, two pistols, other weapons, and high-powered radio telephones.

Army Raids Ranch Near Medellin, Arrests 4

PA2404221688 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Apr 88

[Report by Katharina Haller from Medellin]

[Text] Four people were arrested, one soldier was slightly injured, and weapons and ingredients used in processing cocaine were seized in a military operation carried out late yesterday by military police at the Guarani ranch, in Bello municipality, 30 minutes north of Medellin city. The estate belongs to Gildardo Rendon, also known as La Yuca, who is linked to cocaine trafficking, is a member of the Medellin drug cartel and apparently a liaison for assassins.

A party was about to take place here yesterday when a contingent of military police arrived. Among the party guests was Edilberto Duque Nieto, councilman for Bello municipality, who was released along with the other guests. However, three men and a woman in charge of running the estate were arrested. Horses belonging to the Ochoa clan were found in the stables.

Meanwhile, the weapons were found in a room hidden behind a false wall in the stables' veterinary area.

Last night, while the estate was being searched, unidentified people in two station wagons opened fire from the road toward the ranch, slightly injuring one of the soldiers.

This is the 70th operation carried out by the 4th Brigade as part of Operation "Crucible."

Medellin Communist Party Leader Killed
PA2204171688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1627 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Bogota, 22 Apr (EFE)—Today in Medellin, the second largest city in Colombia, three armed men killed Medellin Communist Party Secretary General Hernando Gutierrez, who was also a former Medellin alderman and leader of the Patriotic Union [UP].

UP spokesman—UP is the second largest political force in Colombia—told EFE in Bogota that today at dawn, the assassains approached the house of Gutierrez, 65 years old, who was disarmed, and riddled his body with bullets in front of his wife. When Gutierrez' wife had opened the front door, the unidentified men pushed her aside and barged into the house. Gutierrez tried to escape, but the unidentified men fired at him before he could get away.

With Gutierrez' murder, the number of people killed in Medellin in the past 24 hours adds up to 17. In addition, 11 people were wounded during other attacks. Approximately 600 UP ledres and militants have been killed since that alliance of left-wing sectors was created in 1985.

2 Deputies Abducted; Ex-UP Councilman Killed
PA2304032688 Paris AFP in Spanish 1417 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Bogota, 22 Apr (AFP)—Today two Colombian deputies, Rubiel Orlando Espinosa, Liberal, and Pedro Pablo Herrera, Conservative, were abducted in Pereira, capital of the western province of Risaralda, police have reported.

The two political leaders were kidnapped by alleged secret police (F-2) detectives who took them from their hotel and forced them into a vehicle that took off for an unknown destination.

The hostages are members of Tolima's provincial southeastern assembly and were in Pereira investigating the regional coffee committees. Tolima Governor German Huertas, on confirming their abduction, said he has ordered an intense military-police operation to search for their captors.

One week ago, a leftist M-19 commando released Eduardo Alzate, former Tolima governor who had been kidnapped in mid-April, in Cali.

Continuing the wave of violence shaking the country, today Hernando de Jesus Gutierrez, a former leftist Patriotic Union (UP) councilman, was killed in Medellin, 500 km northwest of Bogota.

The police reported he was gunned down by two individuals in a taxi.

Police Uncover Creation of New Rebel Group
PA2104183788 Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 14 Apr 88 p 2

[Text] In the past few hours the national police have uncovered the creation of a new subversive movement in Colombia after capturing three of its leaders and seizing instruction manuals, leaflets, and documents considered to be vitally important to secret state organizations.

A national police spokesman reported that three insurgents carrying instruction materials were captured in La Ye corregimiento as a result of lengthy investigations.

According to national police investigators, those documents are related to the creation of a subversive group called the "Bolivarian Armed Forces" [Fuerzas Armadas Bolivarianas] (FAB).

The authorities identified the three guerrillas as Carlos Alberto Perdomo Franco, alias "David"; Uvaldo Enrique Zuniga Iriarte, alias "Pablo," an economics student at the University of the Atlantic; and Oscar Orlando Jimenez Calderon, alias "Tony."

A police spokesman said those men were organizing a front of the new rebel group in Cordoba Department and were being helped by other subversive leaders.

Rebel Group Occupies Antioquia TV Station
PA2304145688 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] A rebel group took over the offices of the Antioquia television station for a few minutes. The group also attempted to broadcast slogans against the government, Armed Forces, Congress, and the Catholic Church. They did not accomplish their goal. We have this report by Luz Marina Giraldez.

[Begin Giraldez recording] Two armed men and two armed women belonging to the EPL [Popular Liberation Army] took over the Channel 5 Teleantioquia Television offices at 1930. The television station is located in Medellin.

[Station employee] They told us to be calm because nothing was going to happen. They said they belonged to the EPL and that they were going to record a communique to be broadcast later on.

[Giraldez] While two of the rebels held the administrative personnel on the first floor, the other two rebels went to the master control room, interrupted the television broadcast, and taped a 4-minute message.

[Station employee] The guy read the complete message that had some slogans at the end. Meanwhile, one of the other rebels used spray paint to write slogans on the wall behind the speaker.

[Giraldez] The rebels told the employees to wait 15 minutes and then call the police to search for a bomb they had planted in the building. The rebels then fled. The takeover lasted 40 minutes and the television channel was off the air during that period. The police checked the area as soon as they arrived but did not find any rebels or bombs.

The takeover and the reading of the message were meant to protest recent massacres in Uraba and Cordoba. The rebels accused paramilitary groups that control those areas of causing the massacres. The regional television channel, which started operations 3 years ago, had police surveillance until 6 months ago, when such surveillance was considered unnecessary. [end recording]

2 Rebels Killed in FARC Attack on Mitu

PA2104124188 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Report by Hernando Corral; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Defense Minister General Rafael Samudio has said that the FARC 1st Front was the armed group that attacked Mitu in El Vaupes this morning.

[Samudio] "In the early dawn hours of this morning, a group of individuals, apparently from the FARC 1st Squad [as heard] attacked the police force of the town of Mitu. As a result of that attack, four or five policemen were injured. Two subversives were killed and two injured, and apparently the guerrillas had kidnapped the bishop, the vicar, the mayor, and one or two doctors and held them hostage for a short time."

Gen Samudio did not rule out the possibility of appointing military chiefs to other zones of violence.

[Samudio] "This is an emergency measure that we have taken in Uraba, and we are certain—not just hopeful, but certain—that it will have positive results. If the situation demands it, and if the government decides to do so, it might be applied in other parts of the country at any time."

Government Minister Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, informed of the attack on Mitu, said that the government continues to be committed to the peace process, despite recent attacks.

[Gaviria] "The determination and willingness of President Barco's government to find a political solution in no way implies a shirking of its duty to deal with public order problems and to restore public order."

In closing, the government minister said that the action of judges will be supported and that the government will apply the extradition treaty against drug traffickers, implementing the Montevideo Treaty.

Further on Attack

PA2104222888 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 21 Apr 88

[Text] The number of guerrilla casualties inflicted by the Army after the FARC 1st Front's major attack on Mitu has risen to five. The attack on Mitu, capital of Vaupes Commissariat, located in the jungle in southeastern Colombia on the border with Brazil, began at 0120 and lasted 6 hours. The 30 policemen guarding the the police garrison were able to repel the attack, but 2 of them were seriously wounded. The 7th Brigade and the Meta and eastern plains police commands based at Villavicencio reported the attack was carried out by almost 150 FARC members, [words indistinct] the Armed Forces. They were equipped with long- and short-range weapons such as grenades, rockets, explosives, and rifles when they attacked the police headquarters and the Agrarian Fund and Telecom [National Enterprise for Telecommunications] offices.

A Cessna airplane and a private helicopter belonging to an oil exploration company were also damaged by rebel gunfire. Telephone communications in Mitu were cut off, totally isolating this region from the rest of the country. It was reported that five guerrillas were killed and that two wounded guerrillas were captured. Two civilians, one of them an Indian, were killed. Two doctors and a nurse who had been kidnapped or held allegedly to assist wounded guerrillas were freed hours later at the outskirts of Mitu. It was confirmed that Mitu's apostolic prefect and mayor were not harmed during the attack.

At this time, joint forces of the 7th Brigade and 4th Division (?supported by) helicopter gunships of the 2d Combat Command based at Apiay are carrying out an intense operation to pursue the guerrillas.

According to official reports in Villavicencio, regular troops were involved in several clashes with the guerrillas yesterday afternoon, but the results of these clashes are still not known.

8 Rebels, 2 Soldiers Killed in Clash

PA2504154388 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] This is a last-minute report. This afternoon eight rebels and two soldiers were killed in a clash near San Alberto, in southern Cesar Department. Fifth Brigade units headquartered at Bucaramanga confiscated a large amount of weapons from Venezuela, close to the site where many peasants were murdered 15 days ago. We have the following telephone report from Colonel Jaime Cortes Parada of the 5th Brigade.

[Begin Parada recording] Operations carried out by 5th Brigade personnel in San Alberto municipality's mountainous zone led to an armed clash with subversive groups of the National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, in

which eight casualties were inflicted on the guerrillas. War and logistical materiel and explosives were confiscated. Two soldiers, Carlos Cepeda Arroacha from Barranquilla and Leonel Estrada Luna from Aguachica, also died in the action, while another soldier was wounded. Fifth Brigade Commander General Alfonso Vaca Perilla is personally coordinating and directing the operation. [end recording]

Peru

Garcia, Barco Meet, Sign Joint Declaration

PY250319 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0231 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Lima, 24 Apr (EFE)—Today Colombian President Virgilio Barco and Peruvian President Alan Garcia agreed to demand greater economic contributions from the developed countries for the struggle against drug trafficking.

Peru and Colombia are involved in the illegal business of trafficking drugs, Peru as the world's main producer of coca leaves, and Colombia as the country where the most powerful gangs of traffickers exist.

During a meeting held on the border, the two presidents asked the international community to adopt measures to more effectively fight terrorism and other scourge affecting the two countries.

The meeting coincided with the escalation of activities by armed groups in the two countries. In Peru the Maoist Shining Path organization has caused the death of some 100 people in the past 3 weeks.

In a joint declaration, Barco and Garcia also pointed out that the serious Latin American foreign debt problem demands a solution agreed upon by debtors and creditors, because it endangers the democratic liberty, development, and well-being of the peoples.

The two presidents met on the border aboard a ship, with the intention of reviewing major Latin American and world problems and signing a plan of action to promote bilateral cooperation, especially in the neglected Amazon region.

They expressed their support for governments, such as that of Peru, that have adopted measures to limit the servicing of their foreign debts in accordance with their payment capabilities.

Almost 3 years ago the Garcia governemnt decided to limit payment on the debt to 10 percent of its exports, although this percentage has been greatly exceeded, due especially to payments made through the compensated trade system.

Garcia expressed support for Barco's initiative to hold in Cartagena in August 1988 a Latin American conference on the eradication of extreme poverty, a problem being experienced by a vast majority of the Latin American people.

In their meeting, the two presidents said the OAS, whose Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares will begin a tour through Peru and Colombia tomorrow, would be the most appropriate forum for negotiations between Latin America and the United States.

The two presidents emphasized the need to restrict Latin American military expenditures, to strengthen confidence among Latin American nations, to increase efforts to strengthen regional cooperation organizations, and to firmly support the Central American peace process in which the two governments are cooperating.

Barco and Garcia signed a "Bilateral Action Program" involving joint development actions in the Amazon region, such as the increase of border trade, joint ventures in the industrial field, and telephone links.

The "Bilateral Action Program" also involves the study of agreements on exploration and exploitation between the two state-owned petroleum enterprises, the establishment of national parks in the Amazon region, and the fostering of health and education programs for the people of the Amazon region.

Garcia on Talks

PY251700 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Speech by President Alan Garcia during a meeting with Colombian President Virgilio Barco on board the "Bap Ucayani" gunboat at San Antonio Port, Peru, on the Putumayo River, on 24 April—recorded]]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] During the fruitful conversation we held, we referred to subjects other than those discussed in our documents and plans.

We spoke about Panama, a problem that concerns all Latin Americans. We understand the complexity of the problem, but we raise our voices in defense of continental integrity and sovereignty not only in Panama, but in any part of the continent that has ever suffered intervention.

We reaffirm free elections as a principle of democracy. Popular consultation is the only thing that determines the political freedom of a people. This unites us, because we are both speaking of the same things and we are not retreating in face of the problems of our continent.

We also spoke of drug addiction, and our conversation led us to other issues besides our old declarations. We are struggling against drug trafficking. We share this problem, and while we are aware of the fact that drug trafficking is a crime, we also claim that the powerful countries' drug consumption distorts our agriculture and economies.

We also know that we must change our points of view. Drug trafficking is not the only crime. The improper use of drugs is a crime against humanity condemned by all countries. In face of this fact, we are slowly changing our viewpoint and understanding that he who consumes is just as much a criminal as he who trafficks in the drug.

There is no difference between a ton and a gram of cocaine. He who incites others to crime and who sets a bad example before society is just as much a criminal as he who trades in drugs.

I am happily convinced that Colombia and Peru will together be able to outline a new future, where there will not be drug producing or trafficking countries or people dedicated to this activity.

We will repress consumption and trafficking at the same time by changing legal and ethical points of view to repress the permissiveness that has allowed consumption. It must be understood that the possession of whatever quantity of drug is a crime by itself against all humanity. [passage omitted]

Cuba's Vice President Comments on Lima Visit

PY251507 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Before departing for Brazil, Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez stressed the cordial relations between his country and Peru and the points they have in common regarding certain issues that affect Latin America and the rest of the world.

Rodriguez, who made a 2-day stopover in our capital, excused himself for not giving more detail of his visit. He only said that he is on a tour of several Latin American countries.

During his stay in Lima, he with met President Alan Garcia at Government House. Although the subjects they discussed were not revealed, it is thought they spoke of bilateral cooperation.

Rodriguez will visit Brazil, where he will meet with government authorities, among other activities.

Further on Visit of Western Sahara Official

LD210455 Algiers APS in English 1025 GMT 18 Apr 88

[Text] Bogota, 18/4/88 (APS)—The Saharan Foreign Affairs Minister Mansour Omar, currently in visit to Peru had talks Friday with his Peruvian counterpart, Wagner. Talks dealt with the bilateral relations and the Saharan people's fight.

On another turn, the Peruvian Foreign Affairs Ministry issued a communique announcing the accrediting of Hamdi Bueha as ambassador of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic to Peru.

The head of the Saharan diplomacy also went to Colombia where he had similar talks with his Colombian counterpart. The Saharan minister was bearing messages from President Mohamed Abdelaziz to the heads of state in Peru and Colombia. The Peruvian and Colombian press commented the Saharan minister's visit.

Reports on Results of Attacks by 'Subversives'

Socabaya Mayor Killed

PY230040 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Excerpt] This morning subversives killed the Socabaya Mayor Isidoro Garcia Vargas in the city of Arequipa, Arequipa Department. The mayor was attacked by two men, presumably members of the terrorist organization Shining Path. We can see here the place where the mayor and his driver were attacked.

The subversives were apparently waiting for the mayor to come out of this building. When Garcia walked out, the subversives opened fire on him and the driver. Garcia was fatally wounded by three bullets and the driver by two. Both died.

The attackers escaped in a yellow pickup parked 150 meters away, according to witnesses. [passage omitted]

Huanta Mayor Beheaded

PY221731 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1449 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Lima, 22 Apr (EFE)—It has been reported that the beheaded body of Sergio Canales, mayor of Huanta and a member of the ruling APRA, was found in an empty lot after he was kidnapped on 19 April. In a separate incident, a car-bomb exploded today in Chiclayo, but did not cause any casualties.

On 19 April, the mayor of Huanta, Ayacucho Department, was taken from his home by five hooded individuals. His beheaded body was found in an empty lot yesterday.

Two attacks on a dealer [not further identified] and on an APRA precinct in Huanta have caused great damage.

The car bomb which exploded today in Chiclayo, capital of Lambayeque Department, did not cause any damage or injuries.

It has also been reported that a blackout left the town on Ayacucho in the dark last night. Electricity had just been reestablished in the city after the 22 high-tension towers torn down by the Shining Path some weeks ago were repaired. Reportedly, the blackout was caused by new Shining Path attacks.

Electro Centro Co. has, however, reported that the short blackout that left some sections of Lima and other parts of the country such as Huanta, Ayacucho Department, in the dark last night was caused by technical problems and not by terrorist attacks.

Shining Path Kills 21

PY240126 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0025 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Huanta, 23 Apr (EFE)—According to information received today in this provincial capital, at least 21 peasants have been murdered by members of the Maoist Shining Path in various villages of Huanta Province, Ayacucho Department.

Approximately 200 Shining Path guerrillas raided Aranguiz, a small hamlet 128 km from Huanta City, early yesterday morning. They burned down 30 houses, killed 19 peasants, seriously injured 2 more, and kidnapped 4 others.

The raiders also took approximately 20 head of cattle that belonged to the community, which has had no police force since 1982.

Today, the Shining Path murdered a woman in Pago de Espiritu, Huanta Province, after accusing her of being an informer for the Army. Another peasant died after being forced to take poison in Cuyuchaga.

Cooperative Destroyed

PY230050 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0112 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Lima, 22 Apr (EFE)—Today armed gangs from the Maoist subversive organization Shining Path attacked in the north, center, and south of the country. The total number of people killed by the Shining Path in 1988 is 400.

Today a mayor and his driver were killed near the southern city of Arequipa, the second largest Peruvian city. In the northern city of Chiclayo a car bomb exploded but injured no one and caused little damage. In Canete, 150 km south of Lima, an agricultural cooperative was completely destroyed, the second incident of this type near Lima in 2 weeks. [passage omitted]

Uruguay

Broad Front Leader's Comments Split Parties

PY221740 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0743 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Montevideo, 22 Apr (EFE)—On April 21 an unexpected political storm split the unusual consensus of left-wing and traditional parties that had strengthened Uruguayan democracy. This storm began 40 months after an agreement was reached ending the military government that ruled for 12 years.

An internal split of the Broad Front leftist coalition—comprised of 13 Marxist, Christian, Trotskiyist, and liberal parties—and a speech by Broad Front President Liber Seregni provoked the confrontation, 2 years after the second [as received] democratic government came to power.

In an effort to unite his political group, Seregni unleashed a controversial speech in which he criticized the traditional political forces, the ruling Colorado Party and the Blanco Party, the main opposition party.

The immediate result of the verbal confrontation was that the Blanco Party pulled out of the political group in charge of drawing up Uruguay's constitutional reform, because Broad Front members formed part of the group.

At a mass rally held on 19 April, Seregni admitted that there were disagreements in the leftist Broad Front, which is the country's third political force, and he summoned his supporters to make firm decisions [not further identified] before 9 July.

Seregni, 62, who was imprisoned during the military regime (1973-84), was the only speaker at the rally where he promised to continue his efforts to unite the coalition, which is on the verge of collapse.

During his 1 and 1/2-hour speech, Seregni also charged President Julio Maria Sanguinetti's administration of being "antinational, antipopular, and antidemocratic," and he said that the only goal of the Blanco Party has been to keep the country "governable" and to stabilize the institutions in order to fulfill the pledge of the late leader Wilson Ferreira Aldunate.

Uruguayan Vice President Enrique Tarigo stated that Seregni says one thing in public and does something else in private.

Tarigo, who is also secretary general of the ruling Colorado Party, added that Seregni's statements were "very unfortunate."

Tarigo stresses that Seregni "lashed out wildly, trying to give a picture of the country in order to hide, or at least downplay, the Broad Front's internal situation."

National Party legislators issued a communique rejecting Seregni's "way of practicing politics" and termed his comments against the Blanco Party "serious and malicious."

Venezuela

Troops Pursue Colombian Traffickers After Clash

PA2304044688 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] The Jose Antonio Paez Joint Command is carrying out an intensive operation in El Pao District, Zulia State, in an attempt to capture a group of Colombian drug trafficking subversives who clashed with Venezuelan troops this morning.

The confrontation occurred at 0500 today, as members of a Venezuelan strategic command were patrolling the Cano Gaviota area, 8 km from Cano Bayonero, where the Venezuelan dredge barge "Apure" was attacked on 15 April and Marine Second Sergeant Luis Malave was killed.

In today's encounter, two drug traffickers were killed and several were apparently injured, judging from the bloodstains found during the pursuit. According to an official Defense Ministry communique, the authorities seized a boat in which the guerrillas had traveled from Colombia to Venezuela, a Madsen submachinegun, an M-1 carbine, materiel of all kinds, and hundreds of bullets of all calibers. Troops from all the state's security organizations and of the four armed services have surrounded the drug traffickers, according to a last-minute report from the Jose Antonio Paez Command.

Here in Caracas, Brigadier General Pedro Remigio Rangel Rojas, cabinet director of the Defense Ministry, announced that the cooperation of the Colombian Armed Forces has been requested to eliminate drug traffickers from the area once and for all.

[Begin Rangel recording] We have constantly exchanged information and intelligence and, as a result, certain effective blows have been struck at the subversives. However, we hope to carry out these actions jointly because, as I was saying earlier, Colombia and Venezuela have a basic commitment, because they have a common enemy. [end recording]

Gen Rangel Rojas also told newsmen that Defense Minister Division General Eliodoro Guerrero Gomez will inspect the area in the next few hours to talk personally with officers, junior officers, noncommissioned officers, enlisted men, and members of the state security organizations, who are carrying out a very patriotic effort in the most isolated parts of the country .

[Begin Guerrero recording] The work of the state security organizations will be stepped up along the entire border area, until we clear the area of drug traffickers and members of the National Liberation Army from the neighboring country, which have their center of operations in that area. [end recording]

In any case, all state security organizations and representatives of the four armed services, which are participating jointly in the operation on the Colombian-Venezuelan border, will continue maneuvers for at least the next 15 days, because the major objective is to neutralize the groups of drug traffickers who, along with the guerrillas, are operating there and moving into Venezuelan territory.